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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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Australia Out of W-Cup

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NIGERIA	5

By Emma Nwaneri

Australia's U/17 national side, the Joeys, failed to advance beyond the quarter-finals of the U/17 World Cup finals early yesterday morning when they slumped 1-5 to Nigeria.

The result meant that the Joeys could not match their finest performance at the 1999 edition in New Zealand which took them all the way to the final match.

Yesterday's scoreline was heartbreaking for the young Aussies, who did their best in the face of ceaseless onslaught from the Africans, but could not get on the scoreboard. Nigeria interestingly were only a goal up at halftime, before going full-blast to score four quick goals in the last 20 minutes.

The hardfighting Joeys got on the scoresheets in the 86th minute after Adam Van Dommele crossed from the left flank and found Spase Dilevski who headed across the face of goal, allowing Matthew Engele to score with a diving header.

This consolation goal however came just a minute after prolific Nigerian midfielder, Omonigho Temile scored from 12 metres after a cut back ball from the byline.

In the 82nd minute, Suleiman Mohammed outpaced a now flat and dispirited Australian defence to hammer home a fierce shot into the top corner, beyond the reach of diving Nathan Coe, Australia's goalkeeper.

Nigeria's third goal had earlier come in the 79th minute with a cross from the left wing to Opabunmi who outjumped Matthew Hunter to score from eight metres.

In the 78th minute, impressive Jay Lucas created a good scoring chance for Australia when he received the ball out wide on the left, cut inside and released Engele, whose shot from the edge of the box flew wide.

In one other quarter-final match yesterday, France created the biggest upset of the tournament by ousting the defending champions, Brazil 2-1. The French youngsters scored twice in the first half before Brazil managed to pull one back in the 70th minute.

SCORERS:
Nigeria - Opabunmi 24, 70, 79, Mohammed 81, Temile 85
Australia - Matthew Engele 86
HALF-TIME: 1-0;
ATTENDANCE: 8,000
AUSTRALIA: Nathan Coe (gk); Predrag Bojic, Matthew Hunter, Alex Wilkinson, Adam Van Dommele, Carl Valeri, Spase Dilevski, Anthony Danze, Fred Agius, Brett Holman, Terry Smith.

REMAINING Q-FINALS
Argentina v Mali
Costa Rica v Burkina Faso
SEMI-FINALS
(Thursday, September 27)
France v Argentina/Mali
Nigeria v Costa Rica/Burkina Faso
FINAL & 3RD PLACE
(Sunday, September 30)
Venue: Port of Spain

Matthew Hunter of Australia (right) heads the ball away from Richard Eromoigbe of Nigeria during the quarterfinal match of the Under 17 World Cup at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago, yesterday morning.

CULINA RESURRECTS AT SYDNEY UTD

Sydney United yesterday surprisingly announced the appointment of Branko Culina as its new coach with immediate effect.

In a statement by Mr Marko Franovic, President of Sydney United, "It is great to have Branko back at Sydney United. He was an integral part of the organisation during its most successful period and when the opportunity arose we did not hesitate in inviting him back to our Club."

Culina, who left Olympic Sharks in cloudy circumstances last week, will now assume the coaching duties from Mr Kreso Gajnto, who was only appointed Director of Coaching earlier this year and was responsible for the team's pre-season preparations.

"The Club believes that Branko is an exceptional coach, certainly one of the most successful in the NSL and he is a great addition to our coaching structure," added Mr Franovic.

Branko is returning to the United Sports Centre for his second stint as coach and to the Club where he enjoyed the most-successful NSL career.

He now links-up once more key players Ante Milicic, Kresimir Marusic,Paul Bilokapic, Ante Moric and John Perosh who have all have rejoined the Club as well as Captain Aytek Genc who were part of one of the most successful club sides in NSL history.

INSIDE ---
ABSW - 'Purely Belter' - Competition.
Readers have a chance to win free tickets to this new Soccer movie.
• Further details Page 12

NEXT WEEK: Bumper preview and full fixtures of 2001-02 NSL season.

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PHILLIPS RETURNS TO LEAD OLYMPIC

"We are entering a new era and Gary will bring new and fresh ideas to the Club", declared Olympic Sharks' CEO Peter Raskopoulos last week while announcing the choice of ex-player Gary Phillips as the club's new coach.

One of Olympic's favourite sons, Phillips returned to the Blue and Whites as the new head coach at the Olympic Sharks.

Phillips, who played for Sydney Olympic between 1982 and 1993 making 279 appearances for the Blues and scoring 18 goals, signed a 2-year deal at Olympic.

Raskopoulos stated that "it is fantastic to have Gary back at the Club where we both enjoyed much success as players."

Phillips and Raskopoulos were both involved in Olympic's Championship triumph in season 1989-90, Phillips as a player and Raskopoulos as manager.

"Gary and I are pleased that we will once again be working together, albeit in different roles this time round. We will be hoping for the same success we had at Olympic more than a decade ago."

Raskopoulos believes that Phillips' appointment is an ideal one with the new direction the Club is taking.

Gary Phillips: Reuniting with Olympic.

SUSA QUITS SOUTH FOR CROATIA'S HADJUK

Zeljko Susa: Off to Hadjuk after succesful stint at South Melbourne.

Hajduk Split last week announced the surprise signing of Australian Zeljko Susa, a midfielder of Croatian origin.

Before coming to Split, Susa laced boots NSL side, South Melbourne and played a prominent part in their impressive run to the NSL Grand Final last year where they lost to reigning champions Wollongong Wolves at the last hurdle.

Susa's departure would come as a blow to efforts by new South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic to rebuild the side after a mass exodus of players followed ex-coach Mickey Petersen at the end of the 2000-2001 season.

Unfortunately for Susa however, he will miss out from action in the UEFA Cup as he was registered for Hajduk too late to take part in UEFA Cup matches.

He will nonetheless form part of Hajduk's squad in the Croatian national championship, already eight weeks old.

WOLVES WELCOME BACK SOURIS, SEKULOVSKI

Wollongong Wolves last week welcomed back team captain George Souris as well as new, exciting buy Naum Sekulovski. Both players have now recovered from injury-layoffs just in time for the new season.

Souris appeared at training throughout last week, having now recovered from a niggling groin injury sustained on the tour of China. Defence stalwart Souris wouldn't have missed any of the last couple of weeks, but on physio's orders he did the sensible thing and took a couple of weeks off to recover.

Sekulovski on his part resumed light training last week as he begins on the comeback trail following a two week lay-off with a knee injury. 19 year old Sekulovski strained ligaments during the recent win over Northern Spirit and is hoping to be in top condition for the beginning of the new campaign which is only a couple of weeks away.

Both players however missed the season launch game last Saturday, as the Wolves players went straight to Brandon Park, Wollongong where they entertained Parramatta Power.

The Wolves were keen for the game after the cancellation of another planned outing against Olympic Sharks because of an injury crisis at the Sutherland-based club.

The Wolves went into the clash with a 100% record in this year's pre-season games and looked to continue their form as the start of the new season is now only a couple of weeks away.

Wolves' captain, George Souris returns to the squad after a brief absence due to injury.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2001/02 SQUAD

1	Lupce Acevski	Goalkeeper
2	Julian Watts	Defender
3	Simon Bell	Defender
4	Noel Spencer	Defender
5	Robert Trajkovski	Midfielder
6	Scott Thomas	Midfielder
7	Andrew McDermott	Midfielder
8	Craig Foster	Midfielder
9	Adrian Cervinski	Striker
10	Pablo Cardozo	Striker
11	Troy Cranney	Midfielder
12	John Hutchinson	Midfielder
14	Michael Cartwright	Defender
15	Tony Perinich	Striker
17	Gabriel Mendez	Midfielder
18	Robbie Enes	Midfielder
19	Ryan Griffiths	Striker
20	Paul Henderson	Goalkeeper
21	Adam Griffiths	Midfielder
22	Jacek Sobczyk	Defender
23	Steven Baveas*	Midfielder
27	Brent Fisher*	Striker
28	Matthew Hunter *	Defender
29	Alex Wilkinson*	Defender
30	Jacob Rex*	Goalkeeper

Apprentices without playing numbers:

Mitchell Prentice	Midfielder/sweeper
Lupce Acevski	Melbourne Knights
Julian Watts	Luton Town, England
Simon Bell	Marconi
Robert Trajkovski	Perth Glory
Andrew McDermott	Notts County, England
Adrian Cervinski	Melbourne Knights
Pablo Cardozo	Sydney Olympic
John Hutchinson	Eastern Pride
Michael Cartwright	Kingz FC
Brent Fisher	Christchurch City, NZ
Steve Baveas	NSWIS
Mitchell Prentice	AIS

COASTIES' JENKINS SNAPPED BY SPURS

English premiership side, Tottenham Hotspurs have followed the footsteps of fellow-English rivals Leeds United by tapping into the growing market of Aussie youth talents.

Accordingly, the move has seen Spurs taking on Gareth Jenkins, who laced boots for the Newcastle-based Central Coast Coasties.

The 16 year-old last week won an apprentice deal at Spurs' White Hart Lane base, following a successful trial. Jenkins never managed a senior game with the Coasties, restricted to only appearing for the club's U15 team last season.

Coasties chief coach, Dale Eggleton could not confirm the development as at press time last week, but indications were strong that the youngster had impressed at the end of a two-week trial at Spurs and was being asked to stay on.

The Coasties, who have over the years emerged as aforce to reckon with in and around the Hunter Valley region as well as Newcastle, are well known for their youth development which has seen goalkeeper Jess Vanstratten sign with Juventus and Jamie McMaster joining Leeds United.

The English hope to one day see Jenkins step into the boots of current number one and Scottish international, Neil Sullivan, which would continue Australia's reputation of producing great goalkeepers in the English premiership. Aussie number one shot-stopper Mark Schwarzer and contender Mark Bosnich both ply their trade in the premiership.

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Why Corry Said 'No' To Olympic Sharks

By John Economos

RONNIE CORRY, coach of Australia's current League champions, the Wollongong Wolves, stunned the whole NSL fraternity early last week when almost unhesitatingly he rejected a most lucrative offer cast at him by the Olympic Sharks.

Georgie Souris: Wollongong 's new skipper.

Olympic surprisingly had just dumped their Head coach Branko Culina, (who only yesterday was appointed coach at Sydney United), and with the new season blasting off in a little over two weeks at the time, the Sydney club's officials frantically approached Corry to fill the senior coaching void.

Despite offering him an extremely attractive contract, Corry simply said 'No' to Olympic.

Last night the always reserved Corry stated to ABSW: "Look, it was a most generous offer for a three year deal.

"Although I still hadn't signed a new contract with Wollongong, I did shake hands that I'd be staying for a new term.

Ronnie Corry: Stays put at Wollongong.

"Yes, Olympic's offer was very attractive.

"It would have set me up for life.

"But somehow I didn't feel it was right for me at the time to leave Wollongong.

"I seem to have a lot of feeling for the Wollongong region, so I just somehow had to say 'no' to Olympic as well as the cash," reflected the down-to-Earth Corry.

At the time Corry, (former Australian World Cup goalkeeper), was technically out of contract as he still hadn't put pen to paper with Wollongong's management.

What a marvellous, (if not glaringly rare), attitude being exhibited by a sporting professional, today.

In recent years where ethics, club loyalties, principles, even legally binding contracts seem to have all gone right out the window, (mainly motivated by sheer greedy), Corry's case is certainly refreshing to say the least.

In years gone by, as an international goalkeeper, Corry was outstanding for Australia.

Today, for the current National League Champions Wollongong, this man Corry is still outstanding.

In character and as champion coach.

NSL Season Guide Book Now On Sale At Clubs

Supporters are now able to buy this Season's NSL Guide Book through their local NSL Club. Copies of this most comprehensive publication are now on sale at an NSL Club near you. Cost for the 2001/2002 Guide Book is $14:95c (incl:GST).

For further enquiries contact Mr Gary Moretti at Soccer Australia on 02 - 9267 0799.

The ROCKDALE CITY SUNS Soccer Club
("The Club of the Future")

The above club is seeking **Qualified Coaches** for the 2002 Season in the following grades:
Under 21s, Under 18s *(Super League)*
Under 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s *(Youth)*
Under 11s and Under 12s *(Cadets)*

PLAYERS
are also required for all teams.

The Club is also holding a Coaching Academy Sundays (9.00am) and Thursdays (6.30pm) Starting from Sunday 23rd September 2001

If interested, please contact the club's new *Coaching Director Bill Pilovski* on **0402 415 496**

Or the Club Secretary Mendo Cklamovski on **0419 287 907**

Send applications by 12 October 2001 to PO Box 95. ROCKDALE. NSW. 2216

Players strike looms in England

The Professional Footballers' Association issued ballot papers to all players in the English league on Monday as industrial action became a real possibility.

The players' union insisted it had no other option in its dispute over the distribution of TV revenue than to consider striking. All 3,496 members were sent a ballot paper asking if they agree with the motion or not.

A majority in favour could result in soccer matches taking place with no television cameras present. Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the PFA, insisted his members had been left with no choice but to resort to drastic measures.

He said: "This is no sabre-rattling. We've been put in a corner and left with no alternative to consult our members and achieve solidarity.

"Football has never been so well off and the Premier League are trying to make out the PFA has had nothing to do with that.

"They just treat us in a derisory and insulting manner. They want no checks or balances about what they're doing and we're left with no alternative."

The PFA wants 5% - the same share it said it has received since 1955 - of all TV money, a share that amounted to £8.8m last year.

Under the new £1.65bn deal won by the Premier League, the PFA are set to have its slice cut to just £5.2m - under 1% - and £20m down on the figure it would have received under last year's rate.

Taylor added: "We are in thebusiness of paying over £1m for he former players, the PeterOsgoods and Tommy Smiths, who need new hips and new knees.

"Last year our expenditure was over £12m and what the Premier League are offering is less than 1%. They almost don't want us to have that money."

Taylor said the reaction from players and supporters regarding the PFA's intended course of action had been very positive, but that legal action might be needed.

He said: "It's highly likely that we'll be taking them on in court.

We're fighting for our lives here.

"This is not about players' wages. It's as if they're trying to destroy the PFA.

"They are trying to go back on agreements we've had in place for the last 46 years [over players' image rights] and deny they have ever existed."

PREMIER LEAGUE TRIALS

Sydney United Youth Trials
will be held as follows.

Saturday 29th September 2001
U11's 10am • U12's MIDDAY • U13's 2pm

Sunday 30th September 2001
U14's 10am • U15's MIDDAY

Sunday 14th October 2001
U17's 2pm

Please arrive 1/2 hour prior to session commencing to register.

All trials will be held at STANWELL PARK, LIVERPOOL

COME AND SEE THE

Marconi Stallions and Olympic Sharks S.F.C.

battle for the

"2001 DAVID CARTY & PETER FORSYTH MEMORIAL SOCCER CUP"

5pm kick-off at **MARCONI STADIUM**

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2001

Gate Proceeds from the annual Charity Cup will be donated to Police Legacy and the Homicide Victim Support Group.

Tickets: Family — $20, Adults — $10, Pensioners, Students — $5.

The community, Police, families and friends are urged to support the 2001 David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Soccer Cup in memory of police officers killed in the line of duty. The Cup is now in its fourth year and has been named in honour of two NSW police officers — Constable David Carty and Peter Forsyth. The Cup also coincides with National Police Remembrance Day on 28th September 2001. The 2001 Cup features two of the nation's best National League Soccer teams in Olympic Sharks S.F.C. and the Marconi Stallions.

The Match Day also features:
2.30pm Carty/Forsyth Shield NSW Police v Victoria Police
4.15pm Exhibition Game Denistone East Primary Girls v Eastwood Primary Girls
4.15pm NSW Police Service Pipe Band

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

LEADING London Club, the ARSENAL, has engineered a serious petition to be fired into FIFA, joining forces with 11 other Euro clubs, which now severely threatens Australia's coming international clash against World Cup holders France, set down for the M.C.G. on November 11th.

PATRICK VIEIRA: One that may not be seen at the M.C.G.

It's understood that Chelsea and Manchester United have supported this pending petition to be presented to FIFA.

The Arsenal is appealing to FIFA that this international fixture, not be postponed, but in fact switched from Melbourne to a venue somewhere within Europe.

Understandably, a the very worried Arsenal that has no less than four key and regular French internationals on its payroll, is most desperate to block the Australia vs French fixture in Australia, purely concerned to the long round journey involved for its four French World Cup stars.

The Arsenal has already proposed in a submission for FIFA that Australia plays France somewhere in Europe, thus avoiding its 'French Connection' of players embarking on the long taxing trip Down Under.

Arsenal's management strongly believes that because on November 17th, (just six days after the match in Melbourne), the 'Gunners' have to play in a vital North London away-derby game in the England Premier League against arch rivals, Tottenham Hotspur.

The Arsenal firmly believes that its four French internationals would return to London totally jaded from Australia, having just prior returned from a tour to Chile with the French national team.

"The game in Australia is just a friendly, not a World Cup qualifier for France," underlined Arsenal's Vice Chairman, David Dein.

"We've all got important domestic fixtures the following week-end and it's a 22 hour journey, (London to Melbourne), and it takes several days to recover. We're paying huge salaries and paying insurance for our players and I think it's only right that we should have a say in what goes on.

●●●●

ZELJKO SUSA, South Melbourne's dynamic midfielder, has completed his overseas transfer to the high-profiled Croatian First Division outfit, Hajduk Split, which has now created a monumental headache for newly installed coach, Eddie Krncevic

A vital cog in the South Melbourne 'machine', Susa who hugely contributed to lifting the Victorians last season to win the Minor League Championship, and played in the Grand Final against the Wollongong Wolves, has now already commenced training with Split.

Susa's departure, heavily compounds Krncevic's tale of woes, the news coming on top of the loss of experienced key defender, David Clarkson who will be out for the whole season

DAVID CLARKSON: Out for season with knee reconstruction.

Exploratory surgery, tragically revealed that the 33 year old sterling Clarkson had severely damaged not only his anterior cruciate, but also his medial ligament. The most unfortunate Clarkson two weeks ago was forced to undergo a full knee reconstruction.

●●●●

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, (from now re-labelled as the "Olympic Sharks"), is staging its 2001-2002 Season Launch on Tuesday October 2nd at its new administration centre, based within the Cronulla Leagues Club complex.

Kick-off has been set for 7pm.

The Olympic Sharks at the Launch will unveil its two new playing strips, emblazoned with the team's new major sponsor, The Bank Of Cyprus.

GARY PHILLIPS: Olympic's newly installed coach.

Supporters wishing to attend this promising to be colourful Launch, are able to buy tickets to attend. Tickets cost $50 per head inclusive of a sumptious three course dinner which will not include shark.

For further information, telephone administration centre, phone 9527 3122 fax and number 9527 3144.

●●●●

STILL on the Olympic Sharks.

Guess who flew into Sydney last Friday night to commence trials with Olympic?

AURELIO VIDMAR: Will Olympic sign him?

None other than Adelaide City's former favourite son, Aurelio Vidmar.

The former Australian international Vidmar, during the off-season, was turned down by Adelaide City when they wouldn't meet his demands in a new contract.

Now finding himself without a club or contract, Vidmar was quickly approached by Branko Culina to come across to Olympic.

But late last Monday, Culina was suddenly dumped by Olympic with former Olympic and the Brisbane Strikers' player, Gary Phillips taking over.

Phillips who had been appointed as the national coach of Tonga during the last World Cup qualifiers, was due to fly into Sydney today, (Tuesday), to take over the reins at Olympic.

Whether Phillips and Olympic's General manager Peter Raskopoulos elect to sign Vidmar or not, remains to be seen.

With last season's captain and sweeper Ante Juric having left Olympic for Europe, Culina was stuck for a specialist lateral defender and had hoped to convert Vidmar into that role.

●●●●

SINCE the atrocious and incredibly horrific demolition of the USA's Twin

By John Economos

World Trade Centre Towers, security tensions across the planet have rocketted.

Late last week, a most strangely shaped plastic bag lobbed on 'Good Oil's' desk through the mail.

The plastic bag, (or more precisely the shape of it), drew immediate attention from the Staff at *ABSW*.

Gingerly, your columnist carefully split open the oddly shaped bag to reveal a white rubberised spherically shaped object, the size of a billiard ball with the word 'Power' stamped across it.

Pinned to this little squeeze-ball, was a small note that stated:

"It's a whole new ball game!

"Come and see why at Parramatta Power's 2001/2002 National Soccer League Season, Media Launch.

"When: Tuesday 2nd October.

"Where: Sports Central, Fox Studios, Lang Road, Moore Park. Sydney.

Time: 10.30am for 10.45am start.

RSVP 26th September, 2001."

Minutes later a most relieved 'bomb squad' left our building.

●●●●

SBS, (and about time someone did it), has started work on a new pilot segment that will be labelled, 'Where Are They Now?'.

This segment will be serialised and will trace the whereabouts of some of our many past great players.

This morning, (Tuesday), one of Australia's all-time greats, Ronnie Lord, will have the SBS crew lob on his front lawn at Oaks Flats, situated on the South Coast of NSW.

The great Lord made his mark in the 50s and 60s playing for the now defunct Club, Prague.

In the late 50s, Prague formed a star-studded team of FIFA 'outlawed' Austrian internationals that included super-stars such as Walter Tamandl, the Ninaus brothers, Leo Baumgartner and the Late Karl Jaros.

In goals was the powerful and dynamic Ronnie Lord who patrolled his 'box' like a caged, hungry Lion.

Prague attracted huge crowds to watch these super-stars in action.

DAVID MITCHELL: The Power's Head coach.

They were not only professional players, but also professional entertainers.

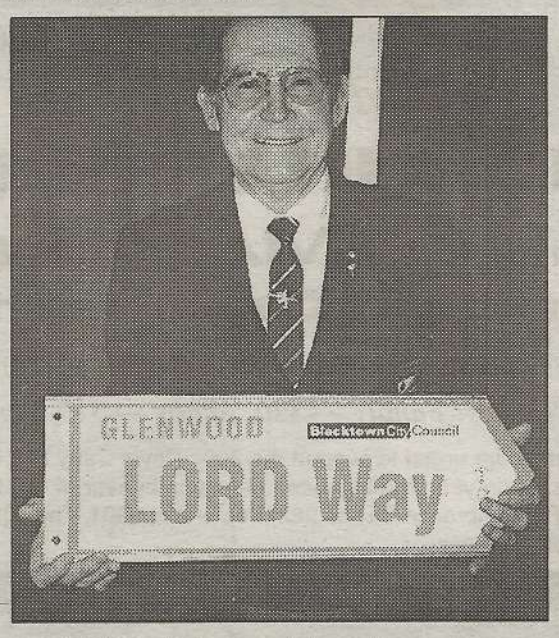
The Prague team was like the Harlem Globetrotters of Soccer.

Immense skills, incredible fluency with spectacular long-ranged shooting.

Most Prague home games had hoisted the 'House Full' sign at the front gates well before kick-off.

This afternoon, the SBS crew will then move out to Jamberoo, a small township boasting a population of just 880 and situated nine kilometres west of Kiama.

At Jamberoo, the guys from SBS will 'shoot' none other than the ball-skilled former Australian World Cup striker, Adrian ('Noddy') Alston.



RONNIE LORD: Past great Australian goalkeeper, had a street named after him at the new Sydney sub-division, Glenwood.

NSW GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

CLAUDIO FERNANDEZ: 'NSW Goalkeeper Of The Year.'

●●●●

CLAUDIO FERNANDEZ, recently voted as the 'NSW Goalkeeper Of The Year', is expected to continue next season with A.C.United.

The slender built Claudio, who at 24 years of age, has the very best years of his career still in front of him.

●●●●

BILLY PILOVSKI, voted last week as the 'NSW Coach Of The Year' has surprised many experts by resigning from his Super League Club, Dulwich Hill.

'Good Oil' spoke to the intelligent Billy last week, (as a player he was a cultured sweeper), who told us:

"I've decided to pull out of coaching for a year or two.

"I will be employed as the Technical Director of Rockdale City Suns where I'll be able to re-structure the whole set up there from grassroot level to the top.

"It's a very challenging assignment and I'm looking forward to it very much.

"I enjoy immensley working with young talent and want to do it all my way with much specialised planning," ended Billy.

It's believed that former Australian Youth and Senior international attacking midfielder, Jimmy Patikas, could be taking over the reins at Dulwich Hill for next season.

NSW COACH OF THE YEAR

BILLY PILOVSKI: 'NSW Coach Of The Year'.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

By John Economos

WOLLONGONG WOLVES are staging their 2001-02 Season Launch tomorrow evening, (Wednesday) at the Wests Leagues club in Unanderra, on the South Coast of NSW.

Wests Leagues will be one of Wollongong's major sponsors for the new season.

The League Champions of Australia, coached by Ronnie Corry, will unveil all its new off season signings as well as its new playing strip for the coming season.

Wollongong Wolves this season will be outfitted by 'Valsport', taking over from last season's Umbro.

Corry is expecting some great things from his 19 year old striker, Liam Austin, who he has upgraded from the Youth team and hopefully will fill the void left behind by the departed Saso Petrovski who joined the Danish League during the current off-season.

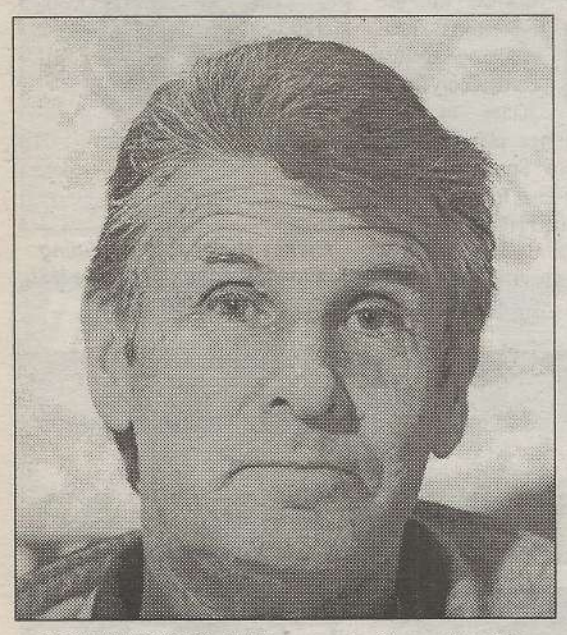
The Wolves despite losing no less than four major goalscorers in the off-season, are most hungry to retain their League Championship title for an Australian record third consecutive season.

The phlegamtic Corry stated to 'Good Oil': "Rest assured, we will be trying very hard, make no mistake about that."

For the coming season, Corry has lost valuable goalscorers in Matt Horsley, Scott Chipperfield and Petrovski.

Thankfully, he's been able to retain dynamic midfielder Paul Reid who was almost lost to England.

The super-talented Reid last season won ABSW's 'Player Of The Year' award.



RONNIE CORRY: Wollongong's Championship.

●●●●

THE Combined High Schools' 'PUMA CUP' Final played last Friday night at the Marconi Stadium in front of a crowd of almost 1,200, saw the illustrious Westfields Sports High run out 2-1 winners over Bossley Park with a 'Golden Goal' in extra time.

Ironically it was Bossley Park that in fact grabbed the lead in only the 7th minute through Samuel, but Westfields equalised in the 62nd minute through substitute Polito.

Khabbara made sure he cemented the 'Puma Cup' for Westfields, scoring the 'Golden Goal' in extra-time.

The 'Puma Shield', (Girls) was taken out by Westfields Sports who defeated Hunter Sports High by 6-0.

Westfields' goals were reeled off by J. Bazi scoring a hat-trick (1m, 28 th and 46th) plus a brace from striker Catherine Canuli, (16th and 20th) whilst K. Ledbrook added to the tally in the 58th.

●●●●

GIANT targetman, with the lethal left boot, John Markovski, is currently having a gallop around the paddock with the Auckland Kingz.

The rejuvenated Markovski played for the Kingz last Wednesday night at the Marconi Stadium in a friendly hit-out with the New Zealanders running out 2-3 winners.

Kingz' off-season signing, the lethal left footed Con Boutsianis, has disappeared from New Zealand and is believed to be back in Melbourne.

But the Kingz management, (which understandably is not too happy with this latest occurrence), is most adamant that it will not release Boutsianis, no matter what, from his contractual obligations with the Club from the Shakey Island.

JOHN MARKOVSKI: Trialling with the Auckland Kingz.

●●●●

GUESS what? Leeds United is already talking to yet another NSL club.

Who would that be?

In past months, Leeds have had dialogue with the Brisbane Strikers, Sydney Olympic plus the Parramatta Power.

All these talks ultimately came to nothing with Leeds' interest in Australia waning.

But now, suddenly from left field, the lads from Elland Road have started talking again, and not to any of the above mentioned clubs.

'*Good Oil*' can't say too much for the moment, other than it looks as if the England Premier League outfit is talking again to a Sydney Club.

Can you believe this?

MICHAEL TURNBULL: Marconi's goalkeeper.

●●●●

THE NSW POLICE FORCE will stage the Benefit match, (See Page 3 advertisement), *"The David Carty & Peter Forsyth Memorial Soccer Cup"* at the Marconi Stadium between Marconi and Olympic Sharks S.F.C. on Sunday September 30th.

Kick off has been set down for 5 pm.

We urge our Sydney readers to get out to Marconi and see this match to support this cause in memory of the Police Officers killed in the line of duty.

This is the fourth year this Cup has been staged and it's been named in honour of the two NSW Police Officers-Constable David Carty and Peter Forsyth.

Gate proceeds from this annual Charity Cup match will be donated to the Police Legacy as well as to the Homicide Victim Support Group.

Tickets: Family-$20:00, Adults $10:00, Pensioners & Students $5:00.

For further information readers may contact:

Inspector Doug McKenzie-0403 626 677, Marconi's Soccer Office-9823 6666, Sydney Olympic 9558 5355.

●●●●

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS SOCCER CLUB

TRIALS

1st Grade
21/9/01 — 6.30pm at
JENSEN PARK
U19 — Tuesdays, Fridays
6.30pm at
O'NEILL PARK
Cooper Rd, YAGOONA

YOUTH & CADETS — 'THE CUBS'

Every Wednesday
U11's, U12's, U13's — 5.45pm
U14's, U15's & U17's — 7.15pm
O'NEILL PARK
Cooper Rd, YAGOONA

FOR INFORMATION
— Seniors —
Ring Mick 0407 754 705
— Youth League —
George Fernandez 9825 3518

Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Association
Soccer Representative Trials

Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Association, in partnership with Northern Spirit Football Club, is inviting players to trial for Super Youth League teams for Season 2002.

We have now entered a new era and a new agreement with Northern Spirit whereas players from the Eastern Suburbs, now have a direct pathway from Junior football to Senior football via Super Youth League, National Youth League, and National Soccer League.

We have appointed a Director of Coaching, and highly qualified coaches and assistant coaches to all your Youth teams, as well as a specialist Goalkeeper coach, and we believe we have created a professional environment for our players to develop to their full potential.

TRIAL DATES AND TIMES:

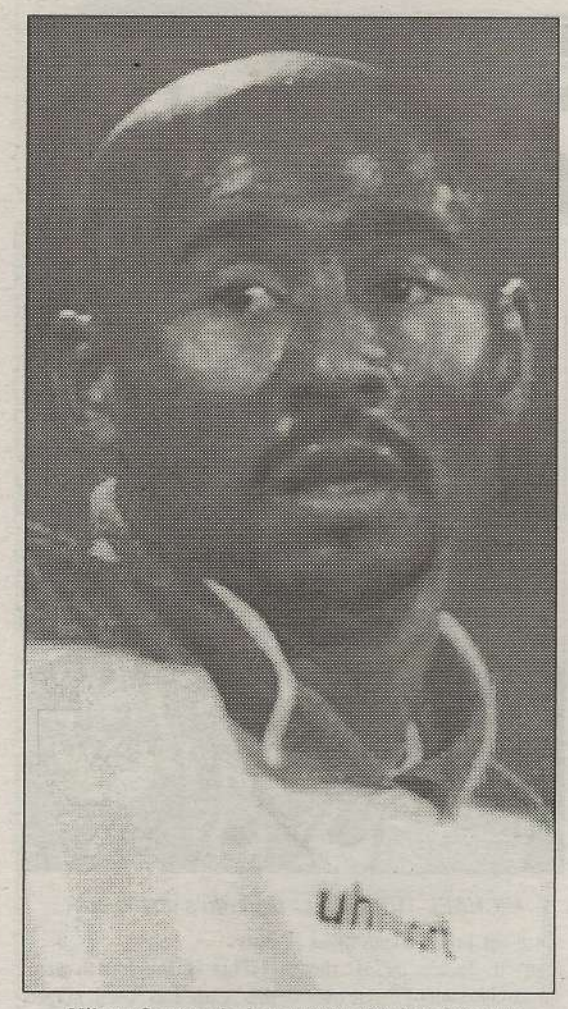
Saturday October 13 at Heffron Park, Fitzgerald Avenue, Pagewood

Under 11 & 12	9.00am till 11.00am
Under 14	11.00am till 1.00pm
Under 15 & 17	1.00pm till 3.00pm

Tuesday October 16 & Thursday October 18 at Jellicoe Park, Park Parade, Pagewood

All age groups at 5.30pm till 7.30pm

All enquiries can be directed to the E.S.S.F.A. office during office hours on phone 9663 1600 or to Charlie Davidson on 0402 407 638



Milton Cortes: In hot water with immigration authorities.

COSMOS STAR CORTES ESCAPES DEPORTATION

By Graham Cooke

Former Canberra Cosmos player, Uruguayan Milton Cortes was at the verge of being deported from the country last week, after narrowly escaping arrest as an overstayer.

Cortes had unknowingly called in at the Department of Immigration last week to inquire if the sponsors of his sports visa could be changed from the Cosmos to NSW Premier League club Belconnen United, who are interested in signing him.

Canberra businessman and soccer supporter Ramon Montero, who has been looking after Cortes' interests, said the department told Cortes he should have left Australia once his Cosmos contract was cancelled and it was the Cosmosí responsibility to pay for his fare out of the country.

"Milton was neither informed of this by the club, nor has there been any arrangements to pay his fare," Montero said.

"We have been able to negotiate with the department for a few more days for him in Australia, and we are expecting the Cosmos to put up the money, which we think will be about $1000, for a one-way fare."

Cortes, who speaks little English, said all he wanted to do now was go home to Uruguay. "I am finished with Cosmos... they are rubbish," was his comment.

Spirit in Pre-season Friendly

Northern Spirit continued its build-up for the 2001/02 NSL with a 0-0 draw with Perth Glory in Kalgoorlie on Saturday night.

Spirit strikers Pablo Cardozo and Adrian Cervinski were paired up front for the first time and combined well before Cervinski was forced from the field just before half time with a thigh injury. Cervinskiís injury is not serious and he will be fit to play Canberra Cosmos in the final hit-out of the pre season at Christie Park, North Ryde on Saturday afternoon.

Replacement striker Ryan Griffiths was unlucky not to decide the issue when he beat the Glory defence and rounded the goalkeeper only to be bundled over as he was about to slot the ball home from just outside the penalty box.

The Perth goalkeeper was sent off but Hickman insisted a replacement Perth Glory goalkeeper be sent on to keep the status quo at 11-a-side.

Hickman will use tomorrowís final match against Perth Glory as a chance to give some of the fringe players a run before Northern Spirit takes on Canberra in the final trial of the pre season at Christie Park on Saturday. Kick off for the Canberra game is 2.30pm with a youth league trial at 12.30pm.

Mickey Hickman: fine tuning his team for the upcoming NSL season

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

Young Matildas Squad Named

Forty-four of Australia's best young talent were named last Thursday in lieu to play at the inaugural FIFA Womens World Youth Championships.

Matildas Alison Forman (middle) contests the ball with an opponent during the Sydney Olympic Games .

The Young Matildas Squad is comprised of players eligible for next year's inaugural FIFA Women's World Youth Championship, an Under 19 event.

The squad was selected by National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey with the assistance of the WSA Technical Study Group who conducted assessments throughout the National Youth (U17) Championship.

These Youth players however have been identified through various avenues - Kate McShea of course is already an Olympian, 13 others played in the Young Matildas event in August, and another four competed at the U17/Adidas Cup in the US last year.

The remaining four are yet to compete at international level - two having played WNSL, one from the Youth titles, and one from Schoolgirls.

The Junior Matildas Squad has been named by the Technical Study Group based on performances at the National Junior (14yrs) Championship last week.

Most noticeable is the large number of players from regional and country areas named in the squads, testament to the growth and development of the sport throughout the nation.

Places such as Cairns, Tully, Townsville, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Cessnock, Ulladulla, Cootamundra, Wagga Wagga, Devonport, and Perth are proudly represented in these squads.

Albury can also claim the first set of twins at national level selection, Amy and Georgia Chapman.

It has only been the last three years where NSW Country has competed at our Nationals, with NSW traditionally a Sydney-based outfit.

All the NSW Country players are members of their regional academies, plus play in boys' competition. Queensland has always had a large contingent of country players, as their State titles are all-inclusive.

The naming of these squads represents the starting point of an ongoing process.

For the Juniors group, it is an identification process to ensure our potential future internationals are nurtured in the best possible way. Players here selected will be provided with elite coaching and training opportunities in their home State.

The Young Matildas have a major short-term goal with the Oceania qualification tournament for the World Youth Championship scheduled for April in Tonga.

Players need to continue to prove their worth during the upcoming national league season, commencing 3 November.

A squad will then be selected for a Young Matildas training camp to be held in January.

Mulvey further emphasised that Youth Squad selections come under constant review.

"Between now and the January camp, there is the WNSL where players have the opportunity to play themselves in or play themselves out of the squad."

Of the Junior selections, Mulvey stated, "This is an exciting group of good quality players. For 2006 (World Youth Championship), although that is five years away, now is the time to work with these players and get them involved in quality programs, as this is a very, very important phase of their development."

The Full List

YOUNG MATILDAS

GOALKEEPERS
Zoe BETTERIDGE, Lisa HARTLEY, Nikki PICHON

DEFENDERS
Sarah BLACKWELL, Kate McSHEA, Thea SLATYER, Lorissa STEVENS, Ashley WILSON

MIDFIELDERS
Stacey STOCCO, Karla REUTER, Amber NEILSON, Caitlin MUNOZ, Collette McCALLUM, Elissia CANHAM, Emma DAVISON

FORWARDS
Catherine CANNULI, Hayley CRAWFORD, Lisa DE VANNA, Rose DUNNE, Katie GILL, Selin KURALAY, Lana HARCH.

JUNOR MATILDAS

GOALKEEPERS
Kate GREENACRE, Jada McKENZIE, Leanne ROBERTSON .

DEFENDERS
Nicole SOMI, Clare RUSH, Nicole MONKS, Tanya KATIANOS, Gipsy HOSKING, Lauren HAMER,.

MIDFIELDERS
Rachel DONOHUE, Kim CARROLL, Lauren BLANEY, Cian MACIEJEWSKI, Tabitha METHERELL, Sally SHIPARD, Roushan WALSH

FORWARDS
Natalie SPIROVSKI, Kirsty PALMER, Sasha McDONNELL, Nicola DAFFEY, Georgia CHAPMAN, Amy CHAPMAN.

BOUTSIANIS MAKES KINGZ U-TURN, EYES SOUTH

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic is contemplating signing itinerant South son Con Boutsianis, who left at the end of last NSL season to sign for New Zealand's Football Kingz, where last season's South coach Mike Petersen has taken up the coaching position.

Boutsianis appears to have walked out on the Kingz after a dispute with Petersen, who is running a strict fitness plan that has players wilting under the pressure.

"I'm interested in Boutsianis, absolutely," Krncevic declared his interest.

But Kingz officials have pointed to Boutsianis's contract.

"The Kingz' board is expecting Boutsianis to honor his contract. He is a required player," Petersen said.

But the saga won't end there.

Petersen has no stomach for a legal fight. "If he doesn't want to come back (to the Kingz) and it becomes a legal wrangle, I don't want to be part of that," Petersen said.

It leaves the door open for a Boutsianis return to Bob Jane Stadium. It would be the fourth time in over a decade that Boutsianis has left and returned to South Melbourne.

Meanwhile, having cancelled its tour to China, because of the momentous terrorist attacks in the USA, South Melbourne Soccer Club ventured to Canberra, beating NSL rival Canberra Cosmos 2-1 in a friendly encounter last Wednesday night.

The match, at the Australian Institute of Sports athletics stadium, was a cold affair. It was being played behind closed doors without spectators present.

The chilly atmosphere caught South off guard and the Melbourne side went a goal behind after 12 minutes through a penalty by Ivo de Jesus.

But South replied in the second half with two goals from set pieces. Steve Panopoulos equalised from a free-kick and new signing Joe Bacak scored the winner with a 30 metres shot that took a deflection into the net.

Con Boutsianis: Attempting a comeback to South Melbourne after falling out with Auckland-based Football Kingz.

FOSTER IS SPIRIT'S NEW SKIPPER

Craig Foster has been named Northern Spirit captain for the upcoming 2001/02 National Soccer League. Foster, who joined Northern Spirit last season, will wear the armband for the first match of the season against Parramatta Power on October 6.

The 32-year-old obviously impressed Coach Mick Hickman with his leadership qualities during the off-season and the initial trial matches.

"Fozzie is a leader and he is the best man for the job," Hickman said. "He has tremendous experience and lifts the side with his talking and also his actions on the park. During our friendly matches he has led from the front and he will be the skipper for the season."

Craig Foster: "To be named captain is a great honour."

Foster, who has played 31 internationals for Australia, described his appointment as an honour as Northern Spirit strives to regain its mantle of one of the leading clubs in the NSL.

"The Gaffer (Hickman) has brought some very talented and experienced people to the club, on top of the guys who remain from last season, and to be named captain is a great honour," Foster said.

"We have a tremendous group of guys at Northern Spirit this season and we all want to do well for each other and for the club. It is going to be an honour leading them out onto the pitch every week."

CRAIG FOSTER PROFILE

Born:	15-4-1969 in Camden, NSW
Former clubs:	Sydney United (1988-1989), Sunshine George Cross (1989-1991), Adelaide City (1994-1996), Marconi (1996-1997), Portsmouth (1997-1998) and Crystal Palace (1998-2000).
Socceroo caps:	31
NSL career	171 matches, 23 goals.
Northern Spirit career:	21 matches, 2 goals.

League rejects Victorian youth

By Bert van Bedaf

THE demise of Victoria's National Soccer League clubs Carlton and Eastern Pride has reverberated through the youth ranks as well with the collapse of the State's Southern Division of the NSL youth league.

It has meant that participating youth teams from Victorian Premier League clubs, such as Green Gully, Preston, Bulleen and Fawkner, are bereft of competition as well as the Victorian Institute of Sport and the youth sides of Victoria's remaining NSL sides Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne.

In a bid to provide competition for their youth teams, South and the Knights tried to enter the Victorian Premier League senior competition and were rejected. In a second attempt, they proposed to join the U21/reserves competition and also failed. The VPL clubs recently rejected both proposals.

If either proposal had been approved, the NSL youth sides would have played in one of the two competitions in addition to the normal 12-club Premier League fixtures (seniors or reserves), with matches on Wednesday nights. The VPL reserves competition runs in tandem with the seniors as a curtain raiser to senior matches. The new VPL season starts in February, 2002.

"The Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne put a proposal to go in the Premier League, but it was rejected by the VPL clubs. Following that proposal, they asked to be included in the U21 competition. The VPL clubs rejected that as well," Victorian Soccer Federation chief executive Geoff Miles confirmed the knock-backs.

The VSF informed the two NSL clubs by letter that a vote of VPL clubs had knocked back the idea. The letter stated "there was not a substantial number of VPL clubs in favour".

The knock-back is regarded a serious blow to the Knights' and South Melbourne's efforts to find a competition for their youth teams after the southern division of the National Youth League died after the collapse of NSL clubs Carlton and Eastern Pride.

The Knights youth teams, its academy and South Melbourne's two youth teams are now in limbo without a competition to take part in, except if they consider joining the Northern Division of the NSL youth league, which would pose an expensive burden on both clubs.

Luciano Trani, the Knights' youth development officer, has been contemplating fielding a team in the NYL Northern Division, saying "It would be a costly exercise, but it might be the only alternative."

So far, Soccer Australia is not forthcoming with funds, allowing the two Victorian NSL to join the Northern competition and thus creating a fully-fledged national youth league.

"A truly national youth league competition that shadows the NSL fixtures would take the youth competition to another level and electrify those involved in the game," Trani said.

"Perhaps the time might be ripe for this in the wake of (newly elected chairman) Ian Knop at the helm of Soccer Australia and the positive work being done so far to take the entire league forward," he said.

Trani is angry Victorian clubs have proved to be so intrangisent. "This narrow-minded attitude of the VPL clubs does the code in this state no justice. It is a sad day for Soccer in this state that there is no room for the youth teams of our two remaining NSL clubs," Trani said.

"They are looking at their own self interests and not the good of the game. Soccer will be poorer for this decision. How will shutting out the youth teams help football? What stepping stone have the kids now got? There's a big gap from the under 16s to the seniors. We must fill the gap somehow. We owe it to the kids and the code," he said.

Trani coached last season's Knights youth team to a national championship, beating Northern Division champion Marconi Stallions 3-2 in the national grand final play-off last June.

"Without a worthy competition you are not going to develop young players because they will be lost and our code will be poorer for it," Trani said.

"We are producing players of high-calibre in our youth development program and need a competition as a stepping ladder to Australia's paramount Soccer competition, the NSL," he said.

The Knights have promoted youth players Daniel Rocco and Daniel Piorkowksi to the senior squad and signed two other youth players Daniel Debevc, from Green Gully, and Boris Ovcin, from Dandenong Thunder, as proof of their endeavours to promote young talent to NSL level.

The Knights and South Melbourne have held talks with the VIS, the VSF and Soccer Australia for some time without success.

South Melbourne also floated the idea of fielding youth teams in the state Premier League, but it too was rejected by the VPL.

(Perth Glory, incidentally, is reported to have proposed fielding an U19 side in the WA Premier League.)

South Melbourne general manager Damien Phillips said the stance taken by the VPL clubs had been the wrong decision.

"We could have added substantial value to the Premier League in Victoria. We (South Melbourne) are a member of the VSF. We are part of the group that is Victorian Soccer and we should be part of the competition," Phillips said.

HAJDUK WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB

SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS

HAJDUK WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB INC

HEAD COACH: Tommy McCulloch

Sunday 7th and 14th October 2001

Under 19's	10.00am
Under 21's	12.00pm
1st Grade	12.00pm

All trials to be held at Hajduk Stadium

COACHES WANTED

FOR UNDER 11'S AND 12'S SUPER CADETS

Must have Youth licence but preferred Senior licence

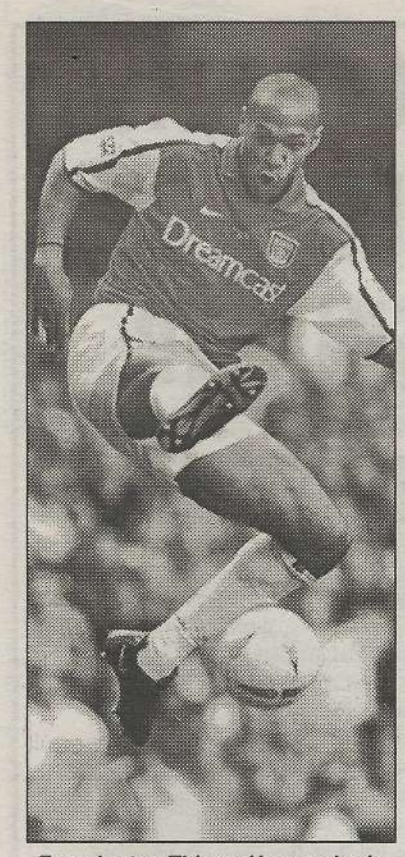
Fax details to Secretary on: 9609 6696

For Further Information Ring

Charles Abdilla

0416 171 896 or 9637 1607

Letters to the Editor



French star, Thierry Henry who is caught in the midst of an international conspiracy against Australia by European clubs.

Name change blues at Olympic

Dear Sir,

I think Sydney Olympic's move to the Sutherland shire is a good one.

The shire is one of the largest soccer regions in Sydney and has a wealth of talent to tap into. But as an Olympic supporter I have to question a couple of decisions the club has recently made.

Why the hell would you change the name to 'Olympic Sharks' and not 'Sydney Sharks'? I am a Sydney Olympic supporter but I am not Greek and to ethnicise your name is not only insulting to your non-Greek supporters, but alienates the largely non-Greek community in the Sutherland shire from your team.

While I agree it is important to recognise the proud history of the club, I can't understand why you had too keep the distinctly Greek 'Olympic' in your name and emblem.

This does not appeal to the mainstream and I believe is a loss for the club in its attempt to brush up local support.

I'd also like to know which Primary school had a design competition for your logo???

The rings aren't even circular and it looks like a school kid has cracked out the crayons.

It seems that a move to the shire has very good intentions, but in some areas poor execution. I'd also like to try and understand the logic in sacking your coach a few of weeks before the opening game?? I think a lot of supporters are a bit confused by this sudden move.

I will say that the new signings are exciting and hopefully good times are ahead for the Sydney 'Olympic' Sharks!!!

T. Brown
Carringbah, NSW

SA, STAND UP TO EURO CLUBS NOW!

Dear Sir,

I was appalled when I heard that 11 European clubs want to sign a petition to have the France friendly against Australia moved to Europe.

I think it is disgraceful when club teams can dictate the terms of international games.

Who do these people think they are?? I can understand your concerns with player' fatigue but your players are all vying for a place in the French side in crucial preparation for defence of the World Cup.

Don't you respect the dreams of your players??

It also said in the report that France was to play Chile a week or so before the

Australia fixture so what I want to know is why don't you fight to change THAT Chile fixture instead of our biggest home international since 1997.

You like to bully the smaller soccer nations to protect your own selfish ambitions because your too scared to take on the powerful South American confederation.

Well Soccer Australia had better not stand for this and take this matter all the way.

This is a real test for you Mr Knop and I am confident you can fight the big European clubs in the interest of our World Cup campaign.

I would also like to comment on another appalling affair that Johnny Warren made us aware of on the 'On the Ball' program last Sunday.

If a major commercial TV station won't show the biggest sporting fixture of the year at a prime time TV slot in the night, then to hell with them. This station has a lot of nerve to try and change such an important event as this one to suit their selfish needs.

It is time commercial TV woke up!

The World Cup qualifier will rate a hell of a lot higher than any second rate movie you want to air on that night. It will rate higher than anything on TV.

After al, soccer is played by more people in this country than AFL, Rugby League, Cricket or Basketball and by more people than any other sport in the world.

I hope Johnny Warren's fears that off-the-field incidents don't decide our on the field success. The supporters are sick of this all too familiar scenario.

Marguerite Costanza,
Lyons, ACT

CALLING WENGER'S BLUFF

Dear Sir,

The recent move by so-called big European clubs to stop their players accompanying the French national side to Melbourne in November for the friendly game against the Socceroos, indicates how too much money and power is corrupting the game in Europe.

I can`t comprehend why on earth a club coach will challenge a national association and threaten not to release his players for national duty.

Is Arsene Wenger bigger than the French Football Federation or are they simply scared of him? I know he has a big reputation in France, but has he stopped for once and considered that he may one day emerge as the national French coach? How would he feel if a certain club coach now refuses to French players to him?

The bottomline I feel is simply because of Australia's standing in international soccer scene. Frank Farina hit the nail on the right spot when he said on SBS that the French are considering sending a second-string side here because they regard Australia as a soccer paperweight. It is the fate that always befalls the so-called lesser-powers allover the world.

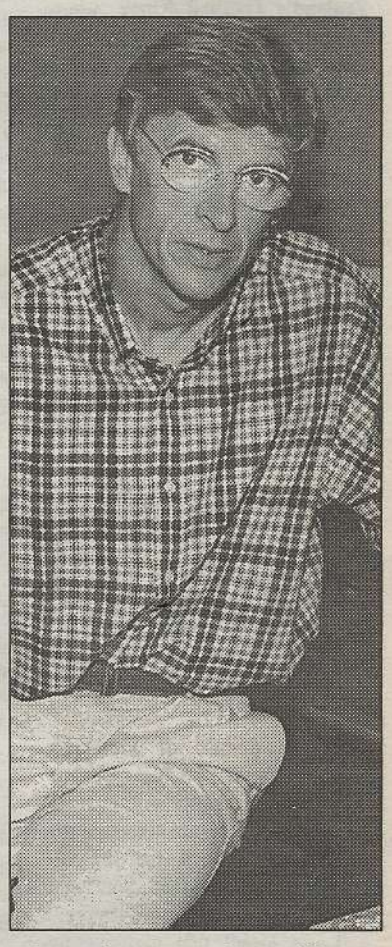
In a nutshell, France would not have thought of holding back their big guns if they were scheduled to play a soccer superpower like Brazil, or Argentina even if they had to travel half-way round the world.

The ongoing excuse of the huge distance required to get to Australia can make some sense, but in truth, the fact that the Socceroos are not a feared side is the real reason why Wenger is trying to sabotage the Melboune friendly.

It is a great lesson to Soccer Australia and the authorities that run soccer in the country that more than anyother time, Australia needs to make it to the World Cup finals for us to get any kind of respect around the world.

Calling Wenger`s bluff is simply not enough. Today it is France, who knows which other country will try to hold us to ransom next.

Michael Hatcher,
Duffy's Forest, NSW



Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger who is spearheading a campaign against French players coming to Australia.

WATCH YOUR TENSES, JOHN

Dear Sir,

Love your magazine but can someone please tell John Economos to stop using the word "most" in every second sentence? It drives me insane.

It`s so bad that as soon as I start reading an article I find myself dreading its inevitable appearance.

Also he uses way too many verbs and adjectives when they are totally unnecessary.

For instance,"South Melbourne last week, wisely and quickly initially postponed its two week tour of China for 48 hours, due to the historic and horrific terrorist attack that hit New York's World Trade Fair Centre Towers two Tuesday nights etc etc."

This reads appallingly. There is no need for "quickly , initially, and historic" to appear in the above sentence.

I know there is little time between writing and press for your paper but surely he is just adding words in for the sake of it.

That said again the magazine is invaluable for Aussie Soccer supporters.

Keep up the good work.

Ian Westwood
Adelaide City, SA

MORE LIFE *ON THE BALL*, PLEASE!

Dear Sir,

I am just writing to express my opinion about SBS's coverage of soccer and there is one positive and two negatives.

The positive is the fantastic expanded coverage of the English Premier League - it is great that free-to-air television is dedicating that much space to a very entertaining league.

The negatives are the Italian soccer coverage and On The Ball. Firstly, the Italian coverage, done in-house by SBS, is at best reasonable. Andrew Orsatti's commentating of the second match that is profiled is laughable and the remaining games are 'flashed' around too quickly with no replays of the goals.

In other words, turn away a second and it is gone. They would be better off just profiling one game with a serious commentator, like Paul Williams, and the other games profiled at a slower pace.

On The Ball is at its lowest point ever. How can they ignore Italian and English Soccer and spend an hour discussing local issues? The NSL is no more worthy than a 30 minute discussion and the other 30 minutes should be English and Italian soccer.

Please also find a newsreader that can pronounce names of teams correctly.

Kyle Patterson should stop thinking that he is television's greatest and the casual seating look is just too casual.

I say bring back Tony Palumbo, who along with Johnny Warren, was the most knowledgeable there and was genuinely funny. Also Les Murray should be the host like a few years ago with Kyle used only as a backup.

Anyway with Channel 7 about to cover NSL matches with highlights at 11.00 am on Sundays, this may be all trivial because who is going to watch On The Ball in a direct opposition time slot?

Joe Russo
***Russo writes for the ABSW**

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

FORCE GIVES A SHORT WAVE GOODBYE TO RADIO COVERAGE

Adelaide City Force has tuned out all direct radio broadcasts of its NSL home matches this season.

The Force last month made an official request to Soccer Australia that there should be a total ban on live broadcasts of all home games from Hindmarsh Stadium.

After deliberation, the NSL commission upheld the request, reasoning that the clubs are in the best position to know their respective markets.

Force president Bob D'Ottavi said his club had decided on the move after research had indicated that the broadcasts were partly responsible for reducing attendances last season.

"We believe we lose at least 1000 people due to the direct broadcasts and that it costs us around $150,000 in gate takings," D'Ottavi said.

"It is important to have income, because you can't put on a show if nobody pays, therefore, if you don't have an audience, the club is not going to survive."

However, D'Ottavi conceded that the decision to halt the broadcasts was, "emotionally wrong" and that he felt compassion for the supporters who, for various reasons, were unable to attend matches on a regular basis.

Adelaide community station 5RTI (92.7FM) has been servicing the SA public with direct coverage of Adelaide City's home and away games, while community station Coast FM (88.5FM) has been broadcasting the club's home matches.

Only one other NSL club, Sydney Olympic Sharks, has requested a blanket ban on the broadcasting of their home fixtures this season. Perth Glory, Newcastle United and the Auckland-based Football Kingz have commercial stations, 6PR (Perth), 2HD (Newcastle) and Radio Sport NZ (Kingz), covering their games, with community station Fremantle Sport, also covering the Glory home matches.

It is impossible to accurately quantify the listener audience capacity of community stations because they are not listed in official rating surveys, as are commercial stations.

Community broadcasters are mentioned in surveys, but only lumped together under an obscure "Other Stations" category.

It is equally as difficult to accurately assess the value of radio broadcasts to club sponsors and club supporters.

It can be argued that true supporters will gladly pay at the gate and brave the most atrocious weather conditions to cheer on their team.

But, it is a fact that live broadcasts serve a very real service to the hospitalised, the aged and the infirm.

Promotion, through every available source, is essential to all forms of sport as they compete for the entertainment dollar.

The SANFL (local Australian football controlling body) obviously recognises this as a fact since they allowed no less than FIVE radio stations to beef out live broadcasts of their qualifying and elimination finals from Football Park last Sunday.

Will the crowds increase at Hindmarsh Stadium this NSL season? Will the decibel level ring the rafters?

Methinks the answers to those questions will have more to do with the quality of the football and the results than the number of radio stations broadcasting the games.

Andy (above) of the Big Brother fame, along with fellow housemate Gordon expected to host the AGL Grand Final show at Hindmarsh Stadium, on Friday.

FORCE FED

Adelaide City Force will hold their season opening cocktail evening on Wednesday (September 26) at the Pavillion On The Park, South Terrace from 8pm.

And on Tuesday, October 2, the Force will unveil their 2001/2002 NSL squad in the very public Rundle Mall at 1pm.

ROLE REVERSAL

Just for a change, the audience will be watching Big Brother, instead of being the subject of his spying eyes.

That's because TV's Big Brother housemates, Gordon and Andy will host the AGL Grand Final extravaganza at Hindmarsh Stadium on Friday night.

Talented Leah Haywood will sing her chart stopping hits, "We think its love," "Crazy" and "Takin' back what's mine" and the National Anthem.

There will be a little horsing around as Gillian Rolton and her famous (now retired) Peppermint Grove giving a farewell performance displaying the skills that won Gillian and Fred two Olympic Gold Medals.

Present and past players will be honoured with a parade of 1000 junior Soccer players and a procession of former Melta Medal winners, who will be driven around the stadium in an open Mustang car cavalcade.

Skydivers will swoop down with the Grand Final match ball and a celebrity race will entertain the crowd during the Premier League Final half time break.

The interval event should keep the crowd enthralled as it features impersonators, Michael Jackson, The Mask, Hulk Hogan, Marilyn Monroe, Roy Orbison and Tina Turner.

SASF general manager Tony Farrugia said the theme for the pre-match entertainment is, "Champions — Now and Forever.

"We have been proud of the standards we have set in the ten years we have been conducting the Top Five Series and this year is probably the biggest and the best ever because we like to think outside the circle," Farrugia said.

"We treat the Grand Final night as more than just a sporting event — it really is a celebration of the talent we have in this country. Champions — now and forever."

SPOT ON

Para Hills Knights were supremely bold in winning the State League Semi-final 4-2 in a nail-biting penalty shoot-out over Birkalla.

The spot-kick drama began badly for the Knights when Mark Moore's attempt was saved by Birkalla custodian Robin Welch.

It looks decidedly worse when Frank Tibaldi, brought off the bench in the final minute of extra-time by Birkalla coach Zoran Maricic, proved his penalty expertise by putting Birks one-up in clinical fashion.

Dino DiLorenzo put Para in the picture to level at 1-1 before Kurt Wilkinson had his penalty saved by Archie Christakos.

Darren Steele gave the Hills a 2-1 advantage before former South Melbourne striker Jimmy Tsekinis levelled the ledger for Birkalla.

Reliable Mark Mulady restored the Knights for a 3-2 lead and when John Fusco's shot was saved by Christakos it all came down to the steely nerves of Danny Breton.

The latter was unruffled in slamming the ball past Welch to complete the upset and spark a stampede of joy from his excited Para Hills teammates.

MYSTERY MISSION

The South Australian Cricket Association is seeking a State Government grant of $14 million towards an overall $46 million upgrade of Adelaide Oval.

The grand plan is to increase the capacity of the historic ground from 30,000 to 40,000.

SAÇA president Ian McLachlan said the improvements were vital to sustain Adelaide Oval's status as a key venue.

The association hopes to secure one-day cricket finals matches, as well as regular AFL, SANFL (local football) and Soccer matches.

It is the mention of Soccer in the SACA's thinking that brings an element of mystery to the scheme. Hindmarsh Stadium is more than adequate for the needs of the SASF and the drawing capacity of SA's lone NSL club Adelaide City Force.

This deduction thus brings us to suspect that the SACA is harbouring the prospect of catching the bigger fish of international Soccer games to fry.

However, the vast capacity of the venues in the eastern states will always allow them the edge when it comes to staging the big Soccer events.

SELECTION TRIALS

Campbelltown City will hold its junior selection trials from late October through to early November over a seven-session period.

The selection of coaches will be held early next month. Junior players and the appropriately accredited coaches are encouraged to register interest early.

Write to Sports Director, Campbelltown City Soccer Club, Campbelltown — 5074 or phone: 8337-0907.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am, along with Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar and The Advertiser Soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Robbie Popplestone of Channel 10.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach John Perin joins Crisp for the 5RPH (1197AM) for the SOS (Soccer On Sunday) program each Sabbath from 8.30am-9.30am for all the latest scores, news and information regarding local, NSL and overseas Soccer.

Veteran Popovich now a Devil

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen Blue Devils have signed former Canberra Cosmos National Soccer League veteran Toplica Popovich for the NSW Premier League season.

Popovich, who played 130 NSL games, was dropped from the Cosmos squad at the end of last season. He becomes the fifth player to have agreed terms with the Blue Devils for the coming season and the third with recent NSL experience.

A rush of signings is expected this week now the ACT Premiership has ended.

Defender Popovich, who has a reputation as a loyal clubman, said he was looking forward to the season in a new competition. "Belconnen are a stable club who think about the future," he said.

Coach Lino Fiorese said Popovich's experience would be a beneficial influence on the many younger players he expected to have in his squad this season.

Toplica Popovich

Meanwhile, Belconnen will play Bankstown City Lions on October 7 in their final warm-up match before the league kicks off on October 20.

Bankstown are one of two teams promoted to the Premier League from the NSW winter competition and Fiorese said they would be ideal opposition.

"It's the kind of game we need to get under our belts before the season begins," he said.

Palm Beach brings Bill Turner Cup to Qld

Palm Beach-Currumbin High penultimateweek became the first Queensland High School to win the Bill Turner Cup in its 23-year history.

Palm Beach-Currumbin and Holy Spirit College of Bellambi (near Wollongong) were locked at 0-0 at the end of both regulation (30 minute halves) time and 10 minutes each-way extra time before a penalty shoot out decided the grand final of the 15 years and under high schools Soccer knockout competition.

Palm Beach-Currumbin won on penalty shoot out 3-1 at Jack McLaughlan Oval, Edgeworth (Newcastle).

The 2001 Bill Turner Cup, which commenced at the beginning of the second term, attracted 615 entries.

Both sides produced an entertaining finale with end-to-end football that had the small but vocal crowd willing either side to score to break the deadlock.

With the score locked at 0-0 at the end of time the match went into extra time of ten minutes each way and a player from each side dropped off at each five-minute mark. The number 10's for both sides, Matt Hilton (Palm Beach) and Peter Gaffney (Holy Spirit), battled hard to score.

The match in the end decided by three gallant saves by Palm Beach-Currumbin 'keeper Deni Jevtovic in the penalty shoot out.

"We have a lot of talented boys but it was a shame we had to win on penalties," Palm Beach-Currumbin coach Sam Wiseman said. "I thought we had plenty of chances to win tonight, commiserations to Holy Spirit it's a shame for anyone to lose on penalties. "We are happy to be the first side in Queensland to win the Bill Turner Cup."

ALL THE RESULTS

GRAND FINAL (BOYS)
Palm Beach-Currumbin High 0 (3)
beat Holy Spirit College Bellambi 0 (1) on penalties.
Auscraft Medals Star Player of the Finals: Nick FICHERA (Concord HighSchool)

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
Hunter Sports High 2
(Mathew SWAN 2m; Daniel SAURINS 37m)
Concord High 0

GRAND FINAL (GIRLS)
Westfields Sports High 5
(Elisha PASSARELLO 2m; Frances DIMINO 29m, 60+m; Daniela PAGANO 42m, 50m)
Cessnock High 0
Austcraft Medals Star Player of the Finals: Kristy ROHRER and Roseanna CIACCIARELLI (Westfields Sports High).

3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF
South Grafton High 3
(Alinta LAURIE 16m, 37m; Lisa LINNERSTON 21m)
Crookwell High 0

Paul Okon: Out of favour and out of contention at English side, Middlesbrough.

Okon dumped from Middlesbrough reserves!

By Emma Nwaneri

Less than two months to the crucial make-or-mar 2002 World Cup qualifying play-off against a yet-unknown South American opponent, Australia's captain Paul Okon is facing a losing battle to secure a starting place in his club.

Okon, who is yet to appear for English premiership side, Middlesbrough this season is not even being considered for selection in the reserves.

Okon's plight since the arrival of new boss Steve McClaren took a desperate dive for the worse last week when he was not included in the reserves team which played against Newcastle United reserves in the mid-week.

Despite the fact that the Australian skipper was also left out, 24hours earlier from Middlesbrough's first team which beat Leicester City, to record their first away win of the season, he was again not included in the reserve game at Newcastle.

Okon's travails was all the more highlighted with the fact that teenage Aussie Luke Wilkshire, who used to be the captain of the Australian Institute of Sports team and was a member of the Australian U/20 squad to the World Youth Championships in Argentina earlier this year, played for 80 minutes in the game.

It is not clear why McClaren has decided to overlook Okon who was a mainstay of Middlesbrough last season as they sensationally fought their way out of relegation under the guidance of ex-England and Australia manager, Terry Venables.

Okon's lack of games will surely now affect his form and confidence ahead of the crucial World Cup qualifier as all of Australia look up to him to lead the nation in her quest for a first World Cup finals ticket since 1974.

OZ CHURCHES SOCCER CHALLENGE

The annual Australian Churches Soccer Challenge is being held in Melbourne this year.

Teams from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria are being joined by a team from the Solomon Islands in the Carnival held from Friday, 28th September 2001 to Monday, 1 October 2001.

The location is the Yarra Valley Grammar School, Kalinda Road, Ringwood.

Both senior teams and U14 teams are represented at the Carnival. The timetable for matches is: Saturday, 8.30a.m., 10.30a.m., 2.00p.m. and 4.00p.m., and Monday, 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with finals at 1.30p.m. and an Australian Representative team playing the Solomon Islands in a shortened match at 4.00p.m. on Monday.

COSMOS BLASTS SA OVER MONEY TROUBLES

Canberra Cosmos have again engaged Soccer Australia in a war of words by accusing the soccer-ruling body of lack of co-operation in its efforts to participate actively in the 2001-2002 National Soccer League.

In a letter made available to the media last week, signed by Acting Chairman Chris Dillon, Cosmos claimed that revelations that the club had failed to meet a deadline aimed at ensuring it pays an annual affiliation fee of $44,000 should not have been made public by Soccer Australia.

According to Dillon, the club all along made Soccer Australia aware of its cash-flow issues, which it planned to manage carefully prior to the new shareholder deal being finalised.

However, despites continual requests from Cosmos for confidentiality Soccer Australia allowed damaging information concerning the dishonouring of a $44,000 affiliation payment to become public. Information received earlier from Soccer Australia confirmed that only four teams had paid the $44,000 affiliation payment by the due date.

Cosmos Acting Chairman Chris Dillon stated that "Soccer Australia's posturing and lack of cooperation on this matter concerns and disappoints us and has led to delays.

Rather than seeking to assist us through this period they continue to issue ultimatums and threats".

Cosmos insist however that they remain completely focused on this season's preparations. A competitive playing squad has been assembled whilst a number of new back office staff have recently joined the organisation.

The next goal according to the club, is securing the club's financial future through the introduction of a new majority shareholder.

Unmoved by Cosmos' tirade however, Soccer Australia is reportedly resigned to running a 13-team NSL in the new season following Cosmos' financial woes. SA meanwhile in a last-minute chance to Cosmos gave it yet another deadline of 5pm on Monday (yesterday) to show proof of its financial viability for the new season.

...shuts out fans from closed-door friendly

By Nick Guoth

The Canberra Cosmos played their first full trial match last week against visiting South Melbourne at the AIS pitch. South Melbourne came away with the spoils 2-1, yet it was the decision to prevent fans into the match venue that dominated discussions.

It had been a hurried preparation for the side from the Nation's capital, and with a team that has so many new faces. Only six players remain from last season's Cosmos as coach Leon Gardikiotis moulds his team for the upcoming summer.

The first half of the game belonged to the Cosmos as they hounded the opponents' goal. In the 14th minute their efforts were rewarded when a quick turn by Brad Scott in the penalty area caused an errant tackle by a South defender and a penalty awarded. Ivo de Jesus planted the spot kick past the keeper, Eugene Galekovic.

Canberra had two excellent chances to increase their tally prior to the break. A Scott cross was met by Daniel Cummins, yet his forceful header bounced back off the crossbar and Fijian Sautaraga Junior had his one-on-one easily swallowed up by the 'keeper.

It only took one minute after the break for South Melbourne to tie up the score. A free kick just outside the box saw Steve Panopoulos' shot glide over the wall and into the top corner giving substitute goalkeeper Nathan Denham no chance.

Souths were slowly gaining the ascendancy and pushed hard for the winner as the half wore on. Again it was from a free kick that the Cosmos were undone. A quick pass to Joe Bacak caught the defence unaware and his shot took the slightest of deflections sending Denham the wrong way.

In the dying minutes the Cosmos came extremely close to snatching a draw yet Jacek Sobczyk's far post header from Ned Aleksic's free kick one previous match was played without spectators — against the United States Olympic team as a warm-up to the 2000 Games — but that was at the request of the Americans for the first time in their six-year history, the Cosmos shut their fans out of a game to the point of posting a security guard at the entrance to the ground.

One previous match was played without spectators — against the United States Olympic team as a warm-up to the 2000 Games — but that was at the request of the Americans.

Meanwhile, the Canberra Rockets representative squad to play the NSW All Stars at Hawker Oval, Canberra on October 1 is:

Anthony Giannasca, Steve Lazzari, Oscar Zamora, George Cattanach, Matt Cachia, Naill Stoddart (Gungahlin Juventus), Brett Dickens (Tuggeranong United), Jimmy Baxter, John Rakic (Monaro), Paul Gagetti, Marcel Munoz, Scott Manson, Andy Ravanello (Canberra Deakin), Eliott Zwangobani, Danny Macor, Toplica Popovich (Canberra Olympic).

FIFA BACKS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

What do clubs such as Boca Juniors, Bayern Munich, Barcelona, AC Milan,Real Madrid, Chelsea and Los Angeles Galaxy have in common?

They might be spread over three continents but all these great clubs and more are successfully bringing the gane of Soccer closer in a shared commitment to develop it amongst the youth of the world.

Under the aegis of the International Academy, all these clubs along with Manchester United, Liverpool, West Ham, Fulham and Sao Paulo offer Soccer training for young and talented players who see a future for themselves in the game of Soccer.

Better still, world governing body, FIFA has fully-endorsed the International Academy as an avenue for rearing young players. In the words of Joseph Blatter, FIFA president, "FIFA believes that through the International Academy's training and development programmes, football will benefit both on and off the field".

For the first time ever and through The International Academy, young Soccer players from around the world can train and play alongside experienced coaches from the world's most famous Soccer clubs.

Established in 1997 the founders, Alun and Julie Williams, have been involved in the travel industry since 1980.

The headquarters of the Academy are now in Cardiff, Wales, UK, and has excellent communication links with an airport located within 20 miles — just two hours from London.

It has spread out right across the globe and here in Australia, Seb van der Vliet is the Manager of the Australian office located at Miranda, Sydney.

Today, the youngsters involved in the Academy can train with top coaches from the club of their choice, compete against players from other countries, and discover the culture and history of your host country.

Alun Williams, CEO of the Academy explains further that, "at The International Academy we help people realize their dreams. With many unique opportunities available, life is exciting!"

TIATTO'S MAN. CITY FUTURE IN DOUBT AFTER KEEGAN ROW

Manchester City star Danny Tiatto was last week involved in a major row with his club manger, Kevin Keegan in what may spell a premature end to his stay at the English first division side.

Keegan and the popular Australian had angry words at half-time in last week Wednesday's defeat at Coventry and Keegan pulled-out Tiatto, the crowd favourite from the match.

The City boss was unhappy with the way Tiatto has so far failed to fit in with his new-look system — and it could lead to his shock departure from Maine Road.

Keegan wants Tiatto to defend more and that point was made before deciding to take him off after a heated argument at Coventry.

Tiatto wanted to use this season as a platform to play in the World Cup finals fro the Socceroos, but may find himself being moved on as Keegan finds a ruthless streak.

City turned down an approach from Newcastle on the eve of the season, but that interest has died. Aston Villa also admire the talented though sometimes volatile star.

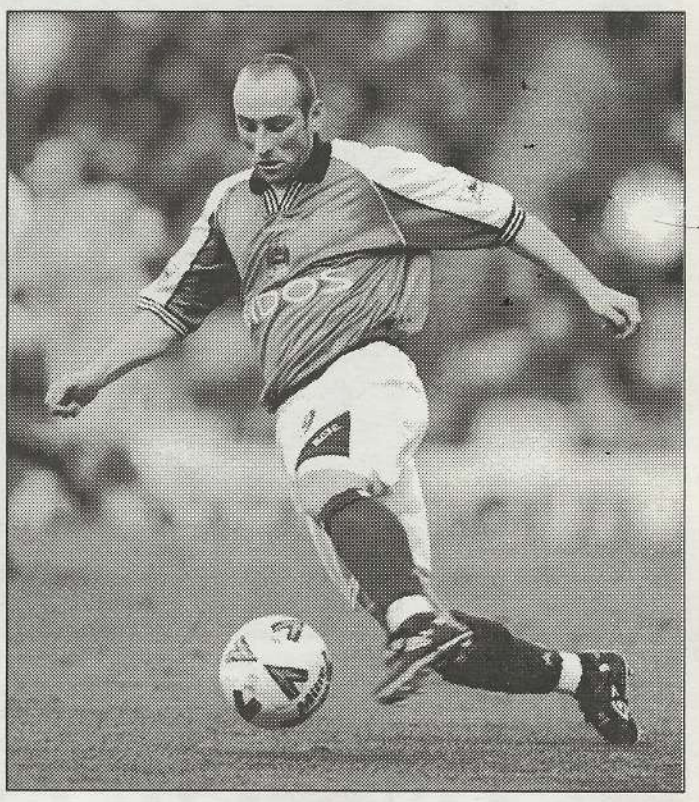
Tiatto was in crisis-meeting with his agent about his future over the weekend and the crunch would have come if he had been axed against Sheffield Wednesday over the weekend. Interestingly, Tiatto played a full game against Sheffield.

Meanwhile, it has also emerged that another Manchester City player, Richard Dunne stayed away from training last week as well as missing out on Sunday's warm-down.

The whole scenario, along with the latest spat involving Tiatto, coupled with Keegan's face-off with Costa Rican-born Paulo Wanchope over his international commitments might indicate a revolt against Keegan at Maine Road.

Dunne could now be fined two week's wages although it will be hard to find a buyer for a player with a growing reputation for bad time-keeping.

The same problem arose last season with Dunne fined when he was late for training under Joe Royle just 24 hours after the former manager ordered a crackdown on discipline.



Danny Tiatto: Considering his future at Man City after spat with manager Keegan.

Canberrans plan Cosmos takeover

By Graham Cooke

Rumours now persist of a consortium of local business people ready to come in with a new franchise proposal if the beleaguered Canberra Cosmos folds — something Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop has not ruled out. "But these people will have to come through quickly," he said.

If not, and if the Cosmos failed to meet SA's Monday (yesterday) deadline, the NSL would go ahead with 13 clubs, he said.

Cosmos faced yet another ultimatum last night after a cheque they issued to pay NSL affiliation fees bounced — and there is now every indication that Soccer Australia's patience with the wayward club is exhausted. Even some Soccer officials in Canberra believe this time SA has a point.

"With two weeks to go before the season begins you can hardly blame the league for wanting answers quickly," one said. "It's time for all this nonsense to end."

SA gave the Cosmos until 5pm last night to produce cast-iron guarantees of their financial viability — guarantees which Cosmos chairman Chris Dillon has already said they cannot provide within that time frame.

The formal transfer of ownership of the Cosmos to Sydney businessman Bill Bariamis, scheduled for yesterday, was also postponed a situation which concerns the current major shareholders, Soccer Canberra, who feel they may become liable for debts incurred in the past couple of weeks.

In the last few days the club has gone into the bunker. Despite having a reported office staff of five, they are not producing press releases, no season launch appears to have been planned, and the club were notable absentees from Soccer Canberra's grand final breakfast last week — something that would have been unheard of under former chairman Danny Moulis.

There are also fears that Moulis' season-long attempts to raise the profile of the Cosmos have been in vain — another opportunity passed at the weekend when the ACT Junior League presentation ceremonies went ahead without any promotion of the NSL season.

Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot said he had been asked by the Cosmos board not to make any statements relating to the club. However, there is growing concern within the organisation at the direction the club are taking.

JUVENTUS ARE ACT KINGS!

By Graham Cooke

A goal each from the striking partnership of George Cattanach and Steve Lazzari gave Gungahlin Juventus their first ACT Premiership for 15 years, beating Canberra Deakin 2-1 in the grand final at Bruce Athletics Field on Sunday.

A strike from Deakin captain Tony Lemezina, who had announced his retirement after this game, was not enough to push his side to the minor premiership-premiership double. For Juventus the win was triply-sweet, coming after earlier success at under-19 and 23 levels.

Perhaps not quite up to the standard of the epic grand final contests between these two clubs fought out in the mid-1980s, the match had plenty to entertain the 1037 crowd. The scene was set by a spectacular save from Juventus goalkeeper Anthony Giannasca, pushing a shot from Marcial Munoz around the post for a corner.

Giannasca was out again to save from Lemezina, but the Deakin defence was caught badly by an incisive counter-attack in the 17th minute, Cattanach finding a gap on the right and stroking home a well-placed shot past Barney Smith.

Smith was positioned well to collect a diving header from former Deakin player Luka Udjur, but the minor premiers hit back five minutes before half time, a cross from Munoz headed home by Lemezina.

The game seemed to be swinging Deakin's way after the interval and on a couple of occasions Giannasca castigated his defence for leaving holes he had to repair, but the decisive strike came after 76 minutes, Lazzari pouncing on a loose ball that had been dropped by Smith, and blasting home from close range.

Marko Perinovic could have done better with a couple of chances for an equaliser in the dying minutes and, as desperation set in, Smith raced up field to add his weight to the last corner of the game, which ended with substitute Paul Ivanic blazing high over the bar.

Juventus coach Ian Heywood said he was too drained to join in the club's on-field celebrations.

"It's not just this match, it's the fact we won all three grades," he said. "You judge a club by the strength of their reserves, and I would say we have now turned the club around in two years.

"It was always going to be close, and we dug deep when we had to and kept them out. Last year we won the league championship but got beaten in the grand final, this time we finished second but won in the grand final, so I presume we have given the Juventus supporters everything they could possibly want."

Steve Lazzari, who helped Juventus to the title with a second half strike.

Deakin team boss Vlado Horvat said his side should have capitalised on the superiority they enjoyed in the first part of the second half. "After Juventus scored their second we lost control and it was always going to be difficult," he said.

"Juventus fought and ran hard and showed the advantage of being together for a long time. In contrast I was still trying to create a settled side half-way though the season, and that made a difference today."

In the Under-23 Grade Juventus beat Belconnen United 5-1; the Under-19s was a much closer contest, Juventus easing through against Tuggeranong United 1-0.

The Masters grand final, between Canberra City and Canberra Deakin, ended after extra time with no score. City won 5-3 on penalties.

MARCONI'S U/10'S CHAMPIONS

The Marconi Stallions U/10's Division One team have experienced many achievements this season.

They started the year by winning the Fairfield City Cup, then went on to win the Southern Districts knockout competition, followed by the Vasin Cup at Pagewood.

This team was also Minor Premiers in their local competition and went on to win the Grand Final as well.

Marconi's U10's are currently in the "Champion of Champions" competition along with Leichhardt Tigers U10's.

Marconi's U10's have scored 165 goals for this season and 11 against, from their 35 games.

Team members are left to right: Back Row: *(Coach) Jeff Stivala, Domenic Trimboli, Daniel Gullo, Adrian Ucchino, Adrian Cesarone, Ismail Irice, Jerry Kalouris, Alan Kearney Matt Oostendorp. (Manager) Adam Bulla.*
Front Row: *Abdel Abdou Ryan Giorgiutti, Adrian Napoleone, Alex Mansueto, Harry Boyd, George Codrea.*

This team is coached by Jeff Stivala who has taught this team the invaluable teamwork required for this great Sport and also coached them many aspects of the game. The Manager is Adam Bulla.

The boys in the team all have great team spirit and are friends on, and off the field.

The parents are also friendly and everyone gets along just great. An example of this was illustrated when the Marconi 10s travelled to Bathurst two weekends back to play in the First Round of the 'Champion of Champions' fixture.

Marconi won 10-0.

The team had a BBQ which everyone attended and had a great time.

ABSW - 'PURELY BELTER' - COMPETITION

TODAY, *ABSW* in conjunction with Dendy Films Pty Ltd, will treat some of lucky readers to go and see the very soon-to-be released English comedy film, 'Purely Belter'.

This competition is restricted only in the City centres of Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, at the Cinemas specified at the base of the Coupon.

This special promotional offer is not refundable, transferable or redeemable for cash, and is NOT valid for any of the Saturday sessions, after 6pm.

Each lucky winner will receive two complimentary Adult tickets through the mail.

These tickets are valid to see 'Purely Belter' from October 11th, (in Brisbane-from October 18th). Saturday sessions after 6pm are excluded.

Entering our wonderful Soccer movie Competition is dead easy.

All our readers have to do, is to fill out the lucky Coupon below very clearly with full details requested. (Print Only).

It's most essential that your correctly filled out Coupon reaches the offices of *ABSW* at Marrickville, no later than Noon, Friday 5th October through the mail.

Photo-copies, or hand delivered Coupons, will automatically be excluded from our draw.

Be the guests of ABSW and Dendy Films to go with your partner and enjoy this most hilarious English movie about two die-hard, but penniless Newcastle United young supporters, (Sewell and Gerry), dreaming up schemes of how to score expensive Season Tickets to see their beloved Newcastle led by Alan Shearer.

The Film

Amid all the special effects and finely-worded public relations brochures, once in a while there comes along a real good movie that suddenly makes you sit up and pay attention. One of such movies is PURELY BELTER.

This down-to-earth, British flick produced by Film Four and set on the Tyneside in England, tells the story of two starry-eyed young lads who are soccer-crazy but quite daft.

As with a lot of kids their age who come from deprived homes, Gerry (Chris Beattie) and Sewell (Greg McLane) have a dream of getting season tickets to watch their beloved Newcastle United football club. It looks certain to remain just that — a dream — because tickets cost 500 Pounds each and both lads don't even have a dime to their names.

Not to be discouraged, both lads decided to raise the cash by fair and foul means. The trouble with the foul means of course is that, as in football, you get a red card flashed in your face when caught. To make matters more desperate, the lads are growing up in a rundown part of the city.

From wading through foul-smelling mud on the banks of the Tyne in search of scrap to sell for money — a bad idea which is immediately dropped — to the eventual nefarious schemes such as stealing from shops and seeking charity by pretending to be blind, the search for cash goes on in laboured stages.

Gerry (left) and Sewell, the two young English Soccer fans who form the story of 'Purely Belter'.

Meanwhile, back home, Gerry and Sewell live out their far-from perfect lives. For Gerry particularly, there are mountains of problems at the place called home. There is a sick mother (Charlie Hardwick) and a single-parent sister (Tracy Whitwell), who is struggling to bring up a baby, named Sheara after the famous Newcastle United captain.

Then in the background looms a drunken, estranged father (Tim Healy) who is so violent and mixed-up that the city's social services have to keep relocating the family every month in order to keep away from his reach. Somehow, which no one ever really finds out how, he also keeps finding them.

Sewell, meanwhile is experiencing the sweet beginnings of a romantic affair, but the girl in question has an eye for other men also, and the relationship heaves and rocks from crisis to crisis.

Obviously, this is no average middle class sit-com, but the writer and director, Mark Herman (also of Brassed Off, Little Voice fame) puts in a whole heap of humour which succeeds in reducing the gloom surrounding everyone of the characters.

The principal characters, Gerry and Sewell are perfect for the roles they play and there's a fine performance also from Kevin Whately, of Auf Wiedersehen, Pet and Inspector Morse series. Here, he appears as Mr Caird, Gerry's teacher. HE is well-blessed in his ability to be cynical as a teacher.

Tim Healy, who plays Gerry's Dad is frighteningly true to life — either when robbing the rest of the family of their electric kettle or singing at a pub in town, dead-drunk.

Even the great Alan Shearer makes an appearance as the great Alan Shearer, though there is little chance he will be getting an Oscar nomination from his part in the movie.

All-in-all, Purely Belter leaves you with an inner satisfaction of sorts that you have seen nearly-true replay of everyday life in England's Soccer-crazy inner cities, as well as the pains, joy and emotions of being a Soccer fan.

Ex-England and current Newcastle United captain Alan Shearer, making an appearance in the movie.

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ABSW - 'PURELY BELTER' - COMPETITION

Competition closes by Noon, Friday, October 5, 2001. Winners will receive two (2) tickets to see the new movie ***'Purely Belter'***, courtesy of ABSW and Dendy Films at the following theatres:
ADELAIDE: Palace Nova Eastend Cinema. **BRISBANE:** Dendy Cinemas. **CANBERRA:** Ronin Cinemas. **MELBOURNE:** Kino, Village Rivoli and The Classic Cinemas. **SYDNEY:** Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Hayden Cremorne Orpheum and Roseville Cinemas.
Sessions after 6pm on Saturdays are excluded.

Andrew is a one-eyed Carlton fan

— Karen Marth, wife of Melbourne Knights Player/Coach Andrew, talks to ABSW.

By Daniela Raco

In an era that produced startling on-field success, the Melbourne Knights became one of the power clubs on the 1990's.

The old guard has effectively evaporated and an 'out with the old, in with the new' attitude has been adopted.

The Knights' tower of strength, Andrew Marth has the arduous task of restoring the achievements of the past.

The powers that be have chosen well. He is the best enforcer in the business, and his finals experience and physical presence are the qualities of a man that can dominate a game.

While Andrew may be the rock behind the Knights, to truly understand this Australian Soccer stalwart, we approach someone that knows him better than he knows himself.

His wife Karen candidly speaks to *ABSW* about matters of the heart, his resemblance to Ricky Martin, and canned spaghetti!!

Where did you meet?

We met on a blind date twelve years ago. We have been married now for nine years.

Was it love at first sight?

No! We were friends and it progressed from there.

Do you have an understanding of the game?

I understand the basics. I attend every home game, and travel interstate for important matches.

QUICK QUIZ

What position does Andrew play?

It depends on the seasons. During his time at Melbourne-Croatia he played in defense. But, both at Carlton and Melbourne Knights we have seen that he is also a capable midfielder, and creator of goals. His current role as player/coach allows him to control the ground.

What is the off-side rule?

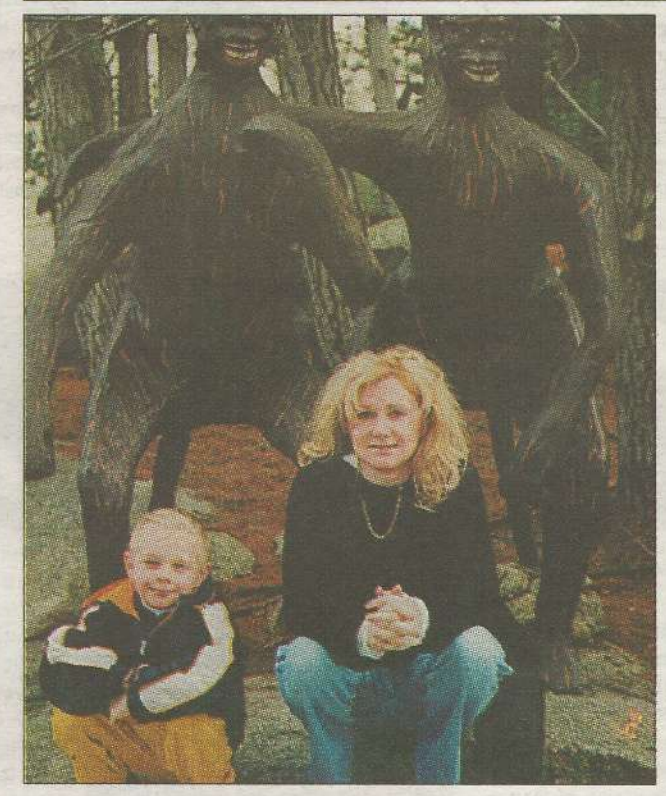
If Andrew is in front of the last player of the other team.

Who will be the key players in the 2001-2002 side?

Andrew, Steve Horvat, and Toto Da Costa will all play a major role after the departure of some of the older, more established players, including Lubo Lapsansky and Adrian Cervinski.

Will the Melbourne Knights be Championship contenders this season?

Andrew has said 'if they make it in the top six they'll be happy'.



Karen Marth (right) with little James sightseeing at the Fairy Park in Melbourne.

It's twelve noon on a weekday, can you tell us Andrew's location and activities right at this moment?

He has lunch usually around 1.00pm, so at the moment he would have to be in his office on the phone. He works in the carpet industry, and his position at 'Feltex Industries' often means that he is on the road.

He is the human juggernaut they call 'Stabber'. What does this mean?

I have no idea! I have heard so many stories, but no-one will tell me. I know it has something to do with an end-of-season Soccer trip when he was sixteen, and playing at George Cross…. Secret Men's business!!!

Andrew has an incredible will to win. Many NSL players would prefer to have him as a teammate rather than an opponent. Do you think the big man has become gentler with age?

He has quieten down a lot, and knows the consequences of a red/yellow card. But, he is still very determined and strives to be the best.

What are the qualities of a good coach?

To understand your players. To treat them with respect, and in turn you will earn respect.

Andrew does not place a screen between the coach and player. As an older player himself, he has earned the respect of those starting out in the game.

You have a 5-year-old son named James, and 2-year-old daughter named Alexa. How do they react when they see Dad on the Soccer pitch?

James will sit in front of the T.V and watch. When we take him to a game he can't understand why he can't go out and play with Dad.

Are you planning to have your own Soccer team?

No, definitely not! Our lifestyle is hectic, and we are never home.

Andrew has always based his Soccer career in Melbourne. Would the constant traveling and relocating be unsettling?

Business has kept him here. He loves his job and the people he works with.

He has also been well looked after by all the Melbourne clubs he has been involved in.

Are you Andrew's harshest critic?

That would have to be his parents. He rings his Dad named Frank, after every game. Frank was once a Soccer player and has been by Andrew's side throughout his career. He is the first to pull him in line.

Andrew is 'sometimes' known for his bad-boy behavior on the pitch. Do you caution him about any on-field biffo?

He knows he suffers if he is penalized. I play a supportive role, and leave the criticism to others.

Is he the first or last to leave the change rooms after a game?

The last! — and now that he's the coach, it's even worse.

What animal (or thing) best describes his personality?

A pussy cat, because he's a softy especially with his kids.

Rate Andrew's Soccer skills out of 10:

10/10.

Terry Venables made it clear that Andrew would have been in the national team — if only he could walk. Was he hugely disappointed to have missed out on selection?

It was a big blow to his career. He was good enough, and it had a huge effect on him.

Are you the typical 'glamour' wife of a Soccer player?

Definitely not. It has never been me.

Describe Andrew's dress sense. Is he the glamour queen?

No. He is not one to fuss over what he wears. He is very co-ordinated and can get ready in 5 minutes.

Does he worry about his image in public (as a role model, or how he rates in the fashion stakes)?

He needs to look good, but his attitude is to throw on a shirt and jeans and be done with it. It must match of course.

What is Andrew's favorite conversation topic?

Soccer and football. Anything to do with Carlton (he's a one-eyed supporter).

Does Andrew have any hidden talents (that you can share with us)?

He's a great cook (any fish meal, fish soup, BBQ's, pasta). He's also good at all types of sport, and any sport he plays…he dominates.

Does he have any bad habits?

If we go somewhere, we can never get him home. He has too much fun and loves to socialize.

How does Andrew celebrate a goal or a win?

He shares a personal minute with his teammates.

What does Andrew look like first thing in the morning?

He looks good all the time.

What famous person has he been told he looks like?

Andrew, having a walkabout with little James recently at Queenscliff.

Ricky Martin!! A very good friend saw the resemblance. It was definitely not for his dance moves.

Describe Andrew's idea of a perfect night out?

A glass of wine over dinner, then home to the kids. We have a favorite restaurant called 'China Max' in Essendon.

How would Andrew spend his last $50?

Buy two presents for his kids.

What is the biggest misconception about sportsmen?

The bad-boy image. That they're all tough rough-nuts.

Complete this sentence 'Love is…

…what you make of it. If you work well together and communicate, that's love. Love is also your family and kids. The hard work pays off.

What is the first thing he does when he arrives home?

When he arrives home from work, he walks in, gives me a kiss hello, grabs his training bag, and off he goes.

Who controls the remote control?

Definitely him.

Describe Andrew's mood after a bad game?

He is very quiet and subdued, and always rings his Dad.

Does Andrew follow any pre-match rituals?

He has a couple of cans of baked spaghetti, and likes to relax and not lift a finger.

Does he have a favorite meal?

Spaghetti marinara. It's always on the menu when we go out.

Is there a downside of being a 'football widow'?

You don't have your husband at home much. The kids also occupy my time, and I spend time with my family.

How do you react when fans yell abuse at your main man?

I lose it! I let them know I don't like it.

Have you got a mean right hook?

No, not me. I'll walk away.

Along with his mates, Andrew (second left) pigshooting during the offseason.

VICS GO DOWN TO KNIGHTS

In preparation of their tour of China, scheduled for the end of the month, the Victorian state team played a practice match against the Melbourne Knights last week.

Although the match was closer than the 5-2 scoreline suggested, it highlighted the differing fitness levels of the two teams.

Victoria started strongly and, despite trailing 2-1 at half time, appeared to be well on top of their NSL opponents.As the second half wore on, the Knights gained control to record a convincing win, with the last goal of the match in the final moments.

Coach Harry Chalkitis took many positives from the contest, as he saw his chargers match it with their more highly rated NSL opponents.

The Victorian State Team is scheduled to play three matches against Chinese National League teams.

The touring party will leave Melbourne on the 27th September, with the first match to be played on the 29th September in Xian against ShaanXi Guoli.

The second match is scheduled for 3rd October in Chongqing where the Vics will meet ChongQing Lifan. The final match of the tour will be in Kunming against Yunnan Hongta on 6th October.

The Victorian State Team will play two more matches prior to their departure.

*Victoria vs Fitzroy City
Saturday, 22nd September 2001
2.00PM Kick Off

*Victoria vs South Melbourne
Monday, 24th September 2001
6:30PM Kick Off

Both matches to be played at SS Anderson Reserve, Plummer Street, Port Melbourne.

Admission will be free.

Bambridge gets nod as VSF Referees' manager

The Victorian Soccer Federation last week appointed Mr. Chris Bambridge to the newly-created position of Referee Development Manager.

The job will involve the implementation of recruitment strategies, as well as ensuring that educational and development opportunities are provided for referees at all levels.

Bambridge brings to the VSF a wealth of experience in the field of refereeing, where he has officiated at the highest level, both in Australia and overseas.

He also boasts experience in referee development and management. Combined with his business background, Chris is certainly well equipped for the demands ahead.

Mr. Geoff Miles, VSF chief executive hailed the choice saying: "The huge demand for our game at the grass roots level has highlighted the critical shortage of referee's throughout Victoria.

The appointment of Chris Bambridge is a key step towards our objectives to recruit and retain more referees.

Chris's outstanding record as a world class referee and reputation in the sport will equip him ideally for this challenging role".

Geoff Miles

Blue Ribbon Cup now a one-game affair

By Bert van Bedaf

THE Tynan-Eyre Cup, commemorating Victoria policemen who have died in the line of duty, will be a severely scaled-down affair this season.

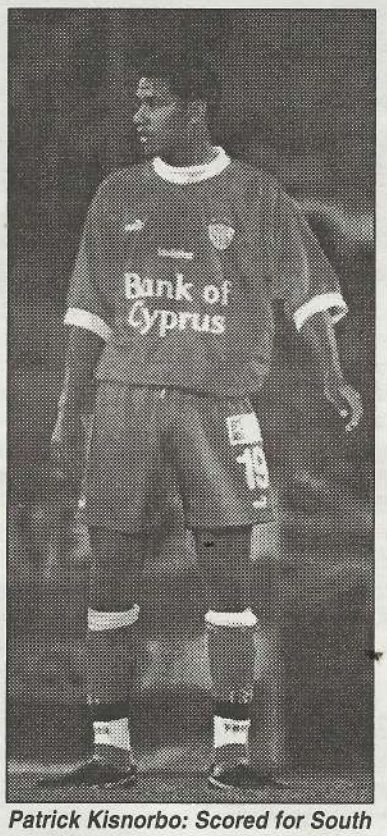
A soccer tournament about a decade old that began with the inclusion of the top four Victorian Premier League clubs and the (then) four Victorian National Soccer League sides, playing each other over a month on weekends, was gradually reduced to only the four NSL clubs.

Over the years, they have been South Melbourne, Melbourne Knights, Melbourne Zebras, Collingwood Warriors, Carlton Blues and Eastern Pride. But the latter four have all become defunct. Now there`s only South Melbourne and the Knights left.

Last year both sides finished playing off in the final. Carlton and Eastern Pride battled for third place, with the Blues beating Pride 3-1.

South Melbourne, preparing for its great run towards winning the NSL minor premiership but losing the grand final, beat the Knights also 3-1 and are the defending cup holder.

For South, the scorers were veteran striker John Anastasiadis, now retired. Zeljko Susa, playing against his old club and now onto a move to Croatian club Hajduk Split, and talented utility Patrick Kisnorbo. The Knights scorer was freshly-signed Xhezair Sulemani, who fell away as a senior player during last season.



Patrick Kisnorbo: Scored for South Melbourne last year in the final of the Tynan-Eyre Cup.

Both finals matches were played at VPL club Bulleen Zebras home ground at the Veneto Social Club, Bulleen.

This year, the one and only Tynan-Eyre Cup match will be played at South`s home turf, Bob Jane stadium, South Melbourne, on September 30, 5pm.

If the match is still drawn after 90 minutes and golden goal time (of ten minutes each way or until a goal to decide the result has been scored), a penalty shoot-out will determine the Cup winner.

Both clubs could field for the first time their first-eleven line-ups. The game's rules bans the use of trialists. Only registered players are eligible to play.

Prevailing NSL (and international) rules have been relaxed in terms of substitutions. Knights player-coach Andrew Marth and South coach Eddie Krncevic are allowed up to five substitutes instead of the usual three.

Proceeds from the match will go to the Police Blue Ribbon Foundation. Funds raised help buy specialised equipment for emergency rooms in Melbourne hospitals. This year's proceeds will go to the Silk-Miller Trauma Recovery Centre at Dandenong District Hospital.

"The Victoria Police has lost some 29 officers. We can do nothing to bring them back, but, as a sports community, we can take steps to honor their memory and insure their sacrifice is acknowledged through a range of projects that will benefit all Victorians," Melbourne Knights general manager Robert Hrzic said.

Pre-match entertainment will include a match between television celebrities and media representatives and an opening game between representatives of the clubs sponsors.

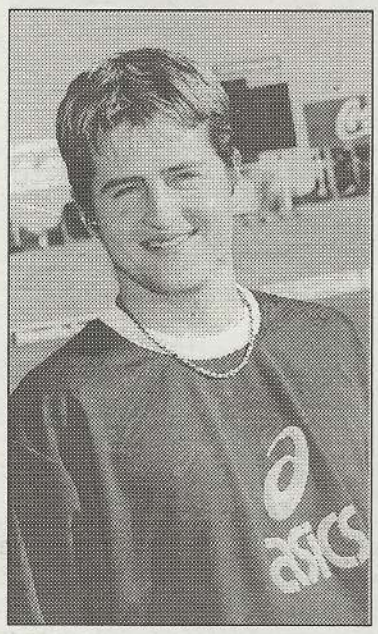
The full program will comprise:
Curtain raiser 1: 12.30pm
Knights sponsors v South Melbourne sponsors

Curtain raiser 2: 3.00pm
TV and media celebrities exhibition match

Cup Game:
Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne
Date:
Sunday, 30 September, 2001
Kick off: 5.00pm
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

Melbourne Knights' president, Harry Mrksa (left) and coach/player, Andrew Marth who will lead the side to the Tynan-Tyre Cup.

Newcastle intensifies search for goalies



Barney Smith: Trialling with Newcastle for the number 1 shirt.

By Tim Caimakamis

With question marks over the fitness of new signing Daniel Beltrame from Wollongong Wolves, Newcastle United have been trialing a number of keepers over the last ten days.

Although having played in the last two trials, Beltrame had been missing from the first four trials with speculation that he may be injury-prone.

Not feeling secure with the goalkeepers already on the books, the club is now definitely searching for backups or replacements.

Two keepers known to have trialed, include Barney Smith (formerly of Canberra Cosmos but laced boots for Canberra Deakin in the ACT premiership this year) and Liam Baker (Hamilton Olympic).

When approached to confirm the situation with the goalkeepers, the United coaching staff were unavailable for comment.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION
"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne. Brisbane. 4006.
Phone: (07) 3252 5327 ● Fax: (07) 3252 1137 ● www.qldsoccer.com.au

Champs Brisbane issue bleak warning

By Marco Monteverde

At what should have been a time of celebration, Brisbane City coach Danny Wright issued a sobering warning that clubs will soon fold-up unless they join forces on and off the field.

Minutes after watching his side win the Queensland XXXX Premier League grand final 3-2 on penalties against Wynnum at Perry Park on Saturday night, an honest Wright said there were too many clubs in Brisbane, many of which lacked the finances to remain in operation.

"I really do think this is a turning point for the competition. It's a crucial stage for survival for a lot of clubs," the former South Melbourne and Brisbane Strikers player said.

"We really need to get some amalgamations going, some loose associations. We need to support each other otherwise every one of them will die.

"If we can get together with clubs in our local area, it's the only way forward. Gone are the days when we can afford to pay players big money.

"The QSF has gone through some major changes and I think it will filter down. Clubs are going to have a look at it and restructure."

Both City and Wynnum are understood to have financial concerns, but Wright said his club had unfairly been the subject of nasty rumours.

"It annoys me that City are singled out when almost every other club in the league has got the same problems. I'm a little bit sick of it," he said.

"They make it an issue and it's not an issue. Of any club in Brisbane, City's the one that's been loyal to their players. The people behind the club, with all their passion and infighting, it's all about the history of the club.

"They always come through for the players. If anything it highlights the success of the club, not stupid issues."

City's latest success came courtesy of Canberra Cosmos-bound goalkeeper Scott Higgins, who saved two spot kicks to ensure Wynnum would not enjoy a premiership-championship double.

Both Higgins and his Wynnum counterpart Daniel Duke, the former City custodian, were instrumental in ensuring the match finished 0-0 after a tense and mostly uninspiring 120 minutes.

Perhaps their contributions were best typified in the space of a minute during the second half of extra-time. First it was Duke who denied Citywing-back Nathan Carlos at point blank range.

Ten seconds later Queensland captain Brad Ditton, who surprisingly started the match on the bench, was denied a golden goal by Higgins, who expertly spread himself to hold on to a low shot.

Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi suggested Ditton might have been better off laying the ball square after committing Higgins, but the former City stalwart was reluctant to criticise his players after the heartbreaking nature of their defeat.

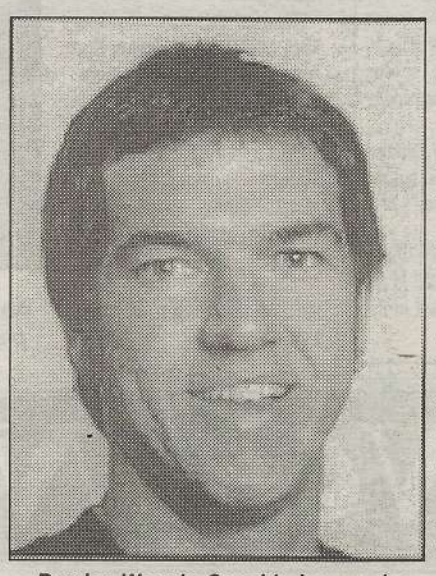
"It becomes a lottery (when it gets to penalties). We had a couple of chances to win it, but it didn't happen for us," Tokesi said.

"City's play was negative. They got 10 men behind the ball. They didn't want to lose and we tried to win it. We were the better of the two sides.

"We were the better side in the league. We finished six points clear of anybody else."

Tokesi made no apologies for leaving Ditton out of his starting line-up, saying his chief playmaker was not fully fit after missing four weeks of training because of a hairline fracture in his foot.

"He was good for about 10 to 15 minutes," Tokesi said.



Damien Waugh: Considering moving on after winning the Premiership title with City.

Wright predictably disagreed with Tokesi's assessment of City tactics.

"When we defend, we defend with 11 players and when we attack, we attack with 10 players," Wright said.

"You've got to take your hat off to them (Wynnum). I call them 11 of the best weight for age players in the league. That's exactly how they play.

Brad Ditton: His presence could not prevent Wynnum from losing.

"They know they're strengths, they're no nonsense and they play very direct. Other clubs, other people like to criticise them, but you've never heard me criticise them, because you can't criticise something that's so affective."

City was the only club during the season to have an ascendancy over the Wolves. Before the final the clubs had met three times in 2001, with City winning twice and the other match finishing level.

But surprise losses to Easts and Mount Gravatt ended any chance Wright's team had of finishing the regular season in first place for the second year in succession.

A premiership-championship double also eluded City in 2000 but it wasn't the club's fault last year, with no semi-final series having been played because of the Olympic Games.

"We won the premiership last year and a few people were saying `well you didn't win the grand final' and `you might be premiers but you didn't actually have to win the grand final'," Wright said.

"This year it's exactly the opposite, so I'm not sure if we've satisfied those people and not satisfied the others. You can't have it both ways.

"In Australian sport, the grand final is the premiership. There's nothing I can do about that. I told the players this (the semi-finals) was a whole new competition, the major competition. You get to win the trophy. "The grand final's it and we were lucky enough to win it tonight."

The win may have been the last of the City team as it currently exists. It's been rumoured that several players including captain Demetri Theochari, midfielder Damien Waugh, striker Mark Battistin and defenders Scott Elliott and Wayne Strange will either retire or join other clubs.

Higgins and Theochari said the team could stay together if Wright returned for a third season in charge. "I'll see what happens with Wrighty and then I'll work out what's happening after that," said Theochari, who was attracted from big-spending Lions.

"Wrighty's a good coach. We all get on really well, we like the way he coaches us and the training's pretty good. If he's back I'd say all of us will be back."

Except hero Higgins perhaps, who at 25 is ready to make a mark in the National League with the Cosmos.

'I've been waiting for my chance for a few years. I want to make a name for myself in Australian football," said Higgins, who will leave City with fond memories.

"The boys have made it enjoyable. The side is such a close unit. The club's had some financial trouble, but everyone's stuck together and this (the grand final win) is a reward."

BRISBANE CITY: Higgins, Theochari, Elliott, Strange, Stevenson, Carlos, Wilkinson (Aldridge 68), Waugh, Aviles (Becirbegovic 68), King, San Martin (Battistin 106).

Vedran Bercibegovic: Failed to score from the spot but still ended up on the winning side.

WYNNUM: Duke, Adair, Forshaw, Easton, Gilroy, De Vries, McLean, Rogers (Hurford 87), Roche, Rose, Rocker (Ditton 68).

Penalties: Waugh (saved), Forshaw (saved), Becirbegovic (crossbar), Ditton (scored), Battistin (scored), Roche (scored), Aldridge (scored), Hurford (post), Theochari (scored), Gilroy (saved).

Referee: David Ogston.
Crowd: Approx 1,000.
Reserves Final: Rochedale 2 Brisbane Lions 0.
Youth Final: Brisbane Lions 2 Easts 0.

Demetri Theochari declared after helping City to the title, 'I'll see what happens with Wright...',

Jets shoot down Stars

By Allan Crisp

Modbury Jets powered into their second successive Premier League grand final with a heart-stopping 1-0 win over Metro Stars last Saturday at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Recalled striker Colin Isaacson and goalkeeper Robbie Matosevic, who celebrated his 23rd birthday on Sunday, were the major Jet pilots who enabled Modbury to overcome the brash Metro Stars.

Isaacson rewarded Modbury coach Duane Gray for returning him to the starting line-up by netting the winner after just 10 minutes of play.

An all-out assault on the Metro goal brought a flurry of attempts before Isaacson belted a ricochet off a defender into the net.

Isaacson burst clear to earn the Jets next scoring chance in the 29th minute, but his sizzling shot hit the side netting.

Metro's best opportunity came 20 seconds into the second half when Dino Sordillo tried an excellent lob that was superbly saved by the full stretch Matosevic.

Nathan Day swooped on the rebound to fire goalwards, but his drive struck the post.

Matosevic continued his match-saving efforts in the 60th minute when Jets defender Chris White was adjudged to have deliberately handled the ball in the area and a penalty was awarded.

Day's sizzling spot-kick looked a certain equaliser for Metro, but Matosevic hurled himself across the goal to make a superb save.

The Stars were dealt another killer punch when defender Robbie Sen was red carded in the 78th minute for dragging back Michael Harris as the striker raced towards the Metro goal.

Despite the best efforts of Tony Scalzi, Ryan Moore, Kon Antoniou and Paul Simmons, Metro went down fighting to the determined Jets.

Man-of-The-Match Matosevic covered himself in glory, along with Ryan Donovan, Mark Yates, Charles Marwe, Jason Trimboli, Isaacson and a late cameo burst off the bench from young Tyson Prescott.

Nathan Day: Modbury Jets' striker whose tireless play helped the Jets to victory over Metro Stars.

SA PREMIER LEAGUE AGL FINALS

PRELIMINARY FINAL
Modbury Jets 1
(Isaacson)
Metro Stars 0

LEAGUE AGL FINALS

PRELIMINARY FINAL
Birkalla-4 (McGregor, Tibaldi, Ferreira, Stam)
Hills Hawks 2
(Gomez, Harvey).

PREMIER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL
Friday, September 28
Hindmarsh Stadium
(8.30pm)
Blue Eagles v Modbury Jets

STATE LEAGUE GRAND FINAL
Friday, September 28
Hindmarsh Stadium
(5.45pm)
Birkalla v Para Hills Knights

Standing Ovation

The standing ovation from the Hindmarsh Stadium crowd was deafening and the player's voices rang out joyously as they rendered their club song.

The electric atmosphere was heightened as goal scorer Darryl Harvey was chaired off the field in triumph.

It was truly a sporting moment to cherish, but making it all the more precious was the fact that the accolades were directed to the losing team — the Hills Hawks, who had just gone down 2-4 to Birkalla in the State League Preliminary Final.

Red-hot favourite Birkalla was the Goliath that was shaken by the David from the Adelaide Hills, the fledgling club that was making its first senior finals appearance.

Adding to the drama of the occasion was the pre-match announcement from Hawks coach Craig Leith that this final would be his swan-song game, while Birkalla coach Zoran Maricic said he too would be finished in his role should his team fail.

Dusty McGregor stuck to the script when he shoved the minor round champions to a 20th minute lead by latching onto a Jim Tsekinis cross from the left to fire into the roof of the net.

Birkalla's stocks rose further with the 54th minute expulsion of Hills defender Doug Montgomery after a second booking.

But, four minutes later the Hawks were level as Jonathon Gomez nodded home as Birks goalkeeper Robin Welch came out of his goal.

A piledriving free kick from Frank Tibaldi restored Birkalla's advantage before speedy Daniel Ferreira raced all the way into the penalty box to make it 3-1.

With five minutes left, Damien Stam rammed home Birkalla's intentions with a header, but the Hills added a twist to the tale with Harvey's brilliant 89th minute goal.

Harvey bewildered the Birkalla defence with a 50 metre solo run to leave four opponents in his wake before slapping the ball into the back of the net for the best goal of a classic clash.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Players Parade - The Wollongong Wolves are no more the shy, forgotten, provincial, looked-upon club anymore. They have forced others to take note and respect the side's achievements.

They are now a professional outfit, run by a business consortium. appointed a recognised General Manager, efficient office staff, experienced coaching staff plus proven team players, however never lost touch with the local fans.

The weekend's season launch in the Wollongong City Mall Amphitheatre sees the introduction of players and coaches to the public plus two new signings will be named. Younger fans have the chance to go near their favourite players.

Chris Beaven, the Wolves Corporate Manager, an experienced professional in this field, chose the catch phrase "Leaps Ahead" to emphasise the image of the Wolves Soccer Club. the team can stand tall in the City of Wollongong when launching the new 2001/2002 soccer season, looking back on two very successful years, winning two NSL championships.

They are entitled to be confident to expect good results in the coming competition. Even though the squad lost five quality players, to be replaced by newcomers of equal standards, coach Ron Corry assisted by Stuart Beedie has quietly prepared another strong-looking side, having shown solid form in several trial matches. Arrangements to put all pieces in place began straight after the completion of last season.

No sensational upheavals have rocked the boat, steady as she goes is the motto for everybody. The supporters are aware of the developments and promotional work done by the Wolves is continuing, hopefully the fans are coming out in numbers to cheer the team on.

- "Leaps Ahead" sounds a proper selected catch-cry to challenge another championship. Confidence is high and it should be so. The City's Lord Mayor is proud supporter of the Wolves. Kick-off is not far away, eagerly anticipated by all soccer fans.

Final Hit-outs - Coach Ron Corry is still fine-tuning his team with two games to go, giving every squad member the opportunity to cement a place in the starting eleven.

Parramatta-Power and Parramatta-Melita-Eagles are the remaining trials before the competition proper starts in earnest on Friday 5th October at WIN Stadium against Marconi-Fairfield.

Coach Ronnie Corry, who has been rebuilding the Wolves since the departure of key players at the end of last season.

A full house of 14000 plus would be fantastic and the proper background to lift the Wolves for an opening win.

Winning Trials - While encouraging to succeed in friendly matches, it is still only used as an opportunity to field as many players as possible to show their goods. Mainly fringe players aiming to win a contract to play with the Wolves are out to impress.

Opponents last week saw the Football Kingz from New Zealand coming to Brandon Park plus State League outfit Sutherland Sharks, a game played in the suburb of Helensburgh as a special promotion. The planned match against Olympic Sharks had to be cancelled due to injury problems with players.

The Wolves fielded several newcomers during last week and the fans are eager to find out who are the new boys signed by a very resourceful coach Ron Corry who was recently approached to switch allegiance, but showed his sincerity and integrity by deciding to stay put, much to the delight of all supporters and club management.

Illawarra Soccer replay - in the ICU Premier League Preliminary Semi-final; Cringila and Balgownie played out a 0:0 draw even after 15 minutes extra time in their first encounter.

The replay during the week at Wetherall Park in front of a very good night attendance, produced plenty of action. Balgownie scored first with Joe Bruni before Cringila levelled through Lupcho Naumovski. Both sides wasted opportunities to score a winning goal.

It ended 1:1 - no golden goal was scored in extra time and the penalty-roulette was needed for a winning side to emerge - in this case it was Cringila with a count of 5:4 in their favour. They now meet Kemblawarra in the Semi-Final, both aiming for a place in the Grand Final within 2 more weeks. For Balgownie the season is over for this year.

Outstanding Loyalty - Adrian Alston, former 1974 Socceroo, playing in the World Cup against Germany, has just signed up for the 10th season with leading local Premier League Soccer Club Port Kembla. The Club's President Emilio Salucci made the announcement saying his committee was delighted to see Alston staying with the club.

A well deserved testimonial to celebrate the coach's 10th season is being organised. Not many clubs can point out to keep a soccer coach in charge for over a decade, surely a record in coaching appointments, backed up by very successful seasons.

ICU Premier League Preliminary semi-finals - Coniston Lions 4 Kemblawarra 1, goals John Chapman (2), Anthony Guido (2) and Manny Mavridis, a most surprising result in front of an excellent attendance.

While one coach Milcho Saveski was thrilled to bits, his opponent John Fleming was forced to admit his boys did not click on the day. His team has a second chance and play now Cringila for a place in the next round.

Cringila 0 Balgownie 0, no score after extra time in the second Preliminary Semi-final, a replay was necessary, won by Cringila.

Another exciting weekend of competitive matches is looming for the fans to enjoy.

Grade Results - in Youth Grade Balgownie 1 Cringila 1, replay during the week won 2:1 by Cringila. Bulli 1 Wollongong Olympic 0. The winning teams going into the next round.

Reserve Grade Bulli 2 Coniston 1 and Lysaght 2 Picton 1, the winners advancing to the next round.

ICU First Division Finals Results - Albion Park WE 5 Warilla Wanderers 0, a demolition job, quick goals early destroyed the opposition, never recovering from the onslaught.

Tarrawanna 2 Kiama 1, after extra time, an open affair, both teams had opportunities, the winner solid enough to absorb all pressure coming their way. The Grand Final will be played at Bulli between Albion Park WE = team squad Steve Micevski (keeper), Grant Newman, Nigel Hughes, Teri Peros, Jeff Allport, Tony Gruevski, David Graovac, Ian Morris, Nick Trencevski, Kole Krajisnik, Tony Donavan = and Tarrawanna = team squad Matthew Ryan, Andrew Naylor, Bill Glancy, Dale Masters, Matthew Naylor, Paul Styer, Claude Cellini, Shigeo Miyake, Keiron Duncan, Josh Faulks, Kain Duncan Referee of the Grand Final will be Petar Vrtkovski, assisted by Tony Bosevski and Mick Agim. The outcome is open as every Grand Final is unpredictable.

Lower Grades - results - in Youth Grade Highlands 0 University 4 and Dapto 3 Tarrawanna 0, the winners advance to the Grand Final.

Reserve Grade Albion Park WE 4 University 0, Warilla 2 Tarrawanna 1, the winning sides going ahead.

Junior Soccer = over 8000 kids boys and girls played the game this year, it is getting bigger and bigger every season, an organisation struggle for the association. More Junior teams are fielded for the Wolves in the NSW State competitions. A total of 56 teams - from u/10's to u/18's boys @ girls, faced up over the weekend Saturday and Sunday at Balgonwie for their age group Grand Final, a tremendous spectacle.

Games had to be played over both days to accommodate all teams. The expectations were high. The Grand Final Winners are = U/10 first division Unanderra, U/10 second division Coledale, U/10 third Lake Heights, U/10 fourth Bulli, U/10 fifth Albion Park, U/11 second Kiama, U/11 third Olympic, U/11 fourth Berkeley, U/11 fifth Bulli, U/12 second Bulli, U/12 third Russel Vale, U/12 fourth Balgownie, U/12 fifth Balgownie, U/12 Girls Helensburgh, U/13's first Shellharbour, U/13 second Port Kembla, U/13 third Dapto, U/14 first Unanderra, U/14 second Port Kembla, U/14 third Albion Park, U/14 Girls Unanderra, U/15 first Oak Flats, U/15 second Corrimal, U/16 first Unanderra, U/16 second Balgownie, U/16 Girls Woonona,

U/18 second Woonona, U/18 Girls Thirroul. Some older age groups were played on Friday night prior. Most League winners had to travel on Sunday to country towns for the Champion of Champions first round competition and were successful. For this year the Junior soccer season is completed.

ADELAIDE FORCE SIGN-ON CESTIS

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide City Force has welcomed their fifth new signing for the new NSL season with the arrival last Saturday of Yugoslav defender Petar Cestic.

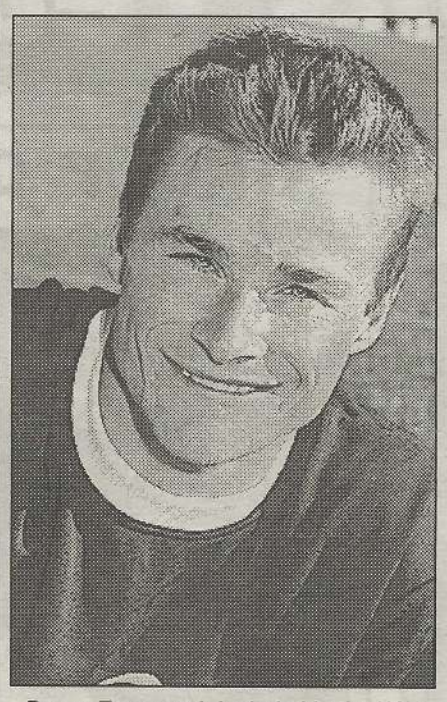
An experienced professional in Yugoslavia, Spain and Israel, Cestic had his first run with the Force on Sunday when he assisted in a 3-0 win over local Premier League club Olympic FC.

Cestic joins former Polish international Greg Lewandowski, New Zealand international Jeff Campbell, ex-Carlton and Northern Spirit striker Alex Moreira and Matthew Kemp as Cityís latest acquisitions.

Moreira, Scott Tunbridge and Louis Brain scored against Olympic FC to boost Force to second place behind Sydney United in the National Soccer Challenge Series played at Thebarton Oval over the weekend.

Sydney United completed the tournament unbeaten after wins over Olympic FC (3-0), Adelaide City (2-0) and Port Melbourne 5-0.

NSW SELECT PIP ROCKDALE AHEAD ROCKETS CLASH



Danny Townsend: Included in the NSW Select for the Labour Day game against Canberra Rockets.

The NSW Super League Select has defeated Rockdale City Suns 2-1 in a trial match played at the Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre on Sunday 23 September.

The Blues, despite just the one training session under their collective belts, displayed good teamwork early on to put the pressure on the Suns.

NSW coach Billy Pilovski called in several players to replace injured stars. One of these replacements, Peter Apolevski, a former Rockdale junior himself, opened the scoring in the 50th minute for NSW when he converted a sharp squaring ball from seasoned State team striker, Mathew Borg.

Borg's Fairfield Bulls strike partner, Marc Hoenselaars, made it 2-0 in the 65th minute with a short-range shot on goal. Rockdale skipper Spase Najdoski pulled a goal back in the 68th minute with a swerving drive from 30 metres that beat Blues and Bankstown 'keeper Zlatko Josevski.

Coach Pilovski has meanwhile cancelled a midweek practice match opting for a final training session on Friday 28 September at Rockdale Ilinden SC before the Labour Day clash with the Canberra Rockets at Hawker Oval.

The reigning Super League 'Coach of the Year' was pleased with the way his side performed against Rockdale City: "Considering it was the first time the boys had played together it was a good performance in very windy conditions. We were solid at the back and our strikers could have scored 3 or 4 goals each."

Pilovski, who has been appointed the Director of Coaching at Rockdale City for the next winter season, drafted into the squad the likes of Alex Kotevich, Phil Moss, Paul Wearne, Nick Boliantitis and Peter Apolevski to replace Richard Luksic (trialing at Brisbane Strikers) and the injured quartet of Michael Kladis, Danny Townsend, Steve Karavatakis and Peco Trajcevski.

Pilovski said, "I'm hoping to have the squad finalised by the middle of this week, but whichever sixteen travels down to Canberra, make no mistake, it will be a very strong outfit."

CONFIRMED NSW SUPER LEAGUE SELECT SCHEDULE:

Training: Friday 28 September at Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, 6.30pm

CANBERRA ROCKETS V NSW SELECT, MONDAY 1 OCTOBER AT HAWKER OVAL (CANBERRA), 2.00PM

Melbourne Knights chase Indonesian captain

By Bert van Bedaf

Last Saturday night, Melbourne Knights fans and supporters turned up for a season's opening party that included an entertaining song and dance act by the Young Talent Time singers and dancers who looked every bit as fit and lean as the Knights players paraded before their sponsors.

If they can be just as entertaining, the Knights should attract big crowds at Somers St, if their stadium gets Soccer Australia`s seal of approval.

This week, the Knights should be given the word on the use of their Sunshine stadium. There were violent scenes after a finals match last season, when supporters attacked Perth players and former coach Bernd Stange in an hour of mayhem that cost the Knights a hefty fine and the need to upgrade their security at home before it is given SA`s consent.

"We should know this week," Knights team manager John Sigur said. "We`re confident we can meet the (SA) criteria and play at home," he said.

On-field, the Knights are not quite settled yet. They are chasing an Indonesian international midfielder, who is currently playing in South-East Asia, to step into the role of playmaker Lubo Lapsansky who joined Parramatta Power.

The player is believed to be the 27-year-old captain of Indonesia, Bima Sakti.

Sigur was tight-lipped about the player, who was spotted during the Knights` recent tour to Vietnam.

"(Captain-coach) Andrew Marth watched him play and was so impressed he said he wanted him," Sigur, who might be flying to Jakarta this week, said.

"He's a lot like Lubo (Lapsansky), a real workhorse, but better," Marth commented. "To sign him would be a huge bonus for us," he said.

The Knights also lost their top striker Adrian Cervinski and goal keeper Lou Acevski to Northern Spirit, while discarding former Ghana youth international defender Ransford Banini, former Olyroo Dragi Nastevski and a former captain Jason Vukadin.

That is six senior players gone, who have been replaced, so far, with teenagers Daniel Piorkowski (defender/sweeper) and Daniel Rocco (midfielder) from the Knights youth team, striker Daniel Debevc from Green Gully, and midfielder Boris Ovcin from South Dandenong.

Former Carlton wingback Joe Tricarico has been training with the Knights in another comeback after serious injury sidelined him for nearly two years. "Joe (Tricarico) will play for us on Sunday (against South Melbourne in Tynan-Eyre Cup). I expect to sign him for three months initially," Marth, who captained Tricarico at Carlton, said.

Martin John will return under the bar. But he will be pushed by experienced guardsman Darren McGrath, who has joined the Knights from former triple Victorian champion Altona Magic.

The Knights' best line-up may look like John in goal, defenders Sasho Ognenovski, Steve Horvat and Rody Vargas as the back-three. Marth wants to play in front of them, with an eye on joining the attack to satisfy his considerable goal scoring ability.

Daniel Vasilevski, Ivan Jolic, Andy Vargas and Alex Kiratzoglou are expected to make up the middle four, with Jolic interchanging with Marth.

But somehow, someone might have to make way for the Indonesian international, if he's signed.

Up front, Joel Porter and Angolan import Toto Da Costa, who is lining up for his second season with the Knights, will form the strike force.

Vasilevski has just returned from Denmark, where he trialed with Aalborg.

"Daniel (Vasilevski) has chosen to come back. I`m counting on him for the season," Marth, who also captained Vasilevski at Carlton, said.

Marth said he will field "80 per cent" of his first-eleven against South Melbourne in the Tynan-Eyre Cup at Bob Jane stadium next Sunday.

With Porter (hamstring), Da Costa (leg strain) and Horvat (touch of pneumonia) in doubt, the Knights might have to blood some of their newcomers.

"I do find it a very serious game (Tynan-Eyre Cup) for obvious reasons. It`s a huge game regarding the Victoria police and it’s a huge game before our NSL season starts. Without a doubt, it`s a bit of a dress rehearsal. It will be a very competitive game," Marth said..

Marth is looking for another top-six position in the coming NSL season. The Knights finished sixth last season.

But the captain-coach, who won two national titles and played in five grand finals, is approaching the season with modest expectations.

"We are not going to win the championship. We can`t expect miracles. We are aiming for the top six and when you are in the six anything can happen in the finals, but if we finish anywhere near the top six, I'd also be happy," Marth said.

Ivan Jolic: Expected to play a prominent part in Knights during the new season

WORLD

Champions League

GROUP A

Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro (left) challenges Lokomotiv Moscow's Rouslan Pimenov, at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Anderlecht	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
AS Roma	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
L. Moscow	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

GROUP B

Boavista's Alexandre Goulart during the Boavista vs Dinamo Kiev game.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
B. Dortmund	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Liverpool	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

GROUP C

Arsenal's midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg celebrates after scoring their first goal against Schalke.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Arsenal	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Real Mallorca	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Schalke 04	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

GROUP D

Mark van Bommel of PSV Eindhoven fights for the ball against Galatasaray.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
PSV Eindhoven	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Galatasaray	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Lazio	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

GROUP E

Chris Sutton (left) of Celtic and Lilian Thuram of Juventus during their Champions League match.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
FC Porto	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Celtic	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Rosenborg	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP F

Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert (centre) celebrates his goal behind Fenerbahce's defenders Mustafa Dogan, (left) and Zoran Mirkovic.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	1	0	0	0	3	0	3
B. Leverkusen	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lyon	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Fenerbahce	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP G

Lille's Fahmi Abdelilah (left) contests the ball with Man Utd's Ruud Van Nistelrooy during their match at Old Trafford.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dep. la Coruna	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Olympiakos	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
Lille	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP H

Jon Dahl Tomasson of Feyenoord (second from right) is sandwiched amongst a group of Spartak Moscow players during their match in Moscow.

How They Stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
S. Moscow	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
B. Munich	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sparta Prague	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

WORLD

Vieri out injured

Inter Milan striker Christian Vieri missed last week's UEFA Cup tie with Romanian outfit Brasov, the Italian first division club announced due to an Achilles tendon injury that has kept him out of action since Italy's World Cup qualifier with Lithuania.

The injury proved worse than originally thought and the player was not be available for the UEFA Cup match which was played at Trieste because of crowd misbehaviour by Inter fans last season.

The club said the injury was "particularly painful."

Brazilian striker Ronaldo (left) of Inter Milan in action next to a player of Romanian team Brasov last week during a UEFA Cup match. Ronaldo returned to the field, 17 months after suffering a knee injury.

Zaccheroni in, Zoff out at Lazio

Dino Zoff was sacked as coach of Serie A giants Lazio last week following the Rome club's Champions League defeat to Nantes.

Zoff was immediately replaced by former AC Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni, club officials said.

The writing had been on the wall for Zoff after Lazio slumped to their second consecutive Champions League defeat, beaten 3-1 by Nantes at the Olympic Stadium.

Zoff had also been under pressure on the home front, with Lazio still searching for their first win of the season after three matches in Serie A.

Zoff, Italy's 1982 World Cup winning skipper and goalkeeper, had been brought back for his second stint as Lazio coach last year following the departure of Sven-Goran Eriksson as England manager.

Dino Zoff

That had followed a successful spell as coach of the Italian national team where he led the Azzurri to the final of Euro 2000.

Lazio had been hoping to emulate the league title won with Eriksson in the 1999/2000 season last year but instead were forced to watch bitter city rivals AS Roma take the crown.

A mass sell-off of Lazio's top players this summer—Juan Sebastian Veron to Manchester United and Pavel Nedved and Marcelo Salas to Juventus— has left Lazio struggling to rediscover their winning formula.

The much-touted arrival of Spanish international midfielder Gaizka Mendieta has failed to spark Lazio. Mendieta was substituted last weekafter a lacklustre performance.

UEFA CUP 1ST RD RESULTS

Celta Vigo (Spa)	4	Sigma Olomouc (Cze)	0
Utrecht (Ned)	3	AK Graz (Aut)	0
Karnten (Aut)	0	PAOK Salonika (Gre)	0
Hajduk Split (Cro)	2	Wisla Krakow (Pol)	2
Bordeaux (Fra)	5	Debrecen (Hun)	1
Ajax (Ned)	2	Apollon Limassol (Cyp)	0
Inter Milan (Ita)	3	Brasov (Rom)	0
Aston Villa (Eng)	2	Varteks (Cro)	3
Chelsea (Eng)	3	Levski Sofia (Bul)	0
Ipswich (Eng)	1	Torpedo Moscow (Rus)	1
Kilmarnock (Sco)	1	Viking FK (Nor)	1
Real Zaragoza (Spa)	3	Silkeborg (Den)	0
FC Copenhagen (Den)	2	Obilic (Yug)	0
Dynamo Bucharest (Rom)	1	Grasshoppers (Swi)	3
Legia Warsaw (Pol)	4	Elfsborg (Swe)	1
Borisov (Bir)	0	AC Milan (Ita)	2
Pribram (Cze)	4	Sedan (Fra)	0
Liberec (Cze)	2	Slovan Bratislava (Svk)	0
Haka Valkeakoski (Fin)	1	Union Berlin (Ger)	1
Dynamo Moscow (Rus)	1	Birkirkara (Mlt)	0
Dnepropetrovsk (Ukr)	0	Fiorentina (Ita)	0
CSKA Kiev (Ukr)	3	Red Star Belgrade (Yug)	2
Parma (Ita)	1	Helsinki (Fin)	0
Genclerbirligi (Tur)	1	Hamlstad (Swe)	1
Inter Bratislava (Svk)	1	Lovech (Bul)	0
Nicosia (Cyprus)	2	FC Brugge (Belgium)	2
FC Midtjylland (Den)	0	Sporting Lisbon (Por)	3
Standard Liege (Bel)	2	Strasbourg (Fra)	0
Odds BK (Nor)	2	Helsingborgs (Swe)	2
Olimpija Ljubljana (Slo)	2	Brondby (Den)	4
Servette Geneva (Swi)	1	Slavia Prague (Cze)	0
AEK Athens (Gre)	2	Hibernian (Sco)	0
St Gallen (Swi)	2	Steaua Bucharest (Rom)	1
Hapoel Tel-Aviv (Isr)	1	Gaziantepspor (Tur)	0
Dynamo Zagreb (Cro)	2	Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr)	2
KP Warsaw (Bak 76)	1	FC Twente (Ned)	2
CSKA Sofia (Bul)	3	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)	0
Partizan Belgrade (Yug)	1	Rapid Vienna (Aut)	0
Maritimo (Por)	1	Leeds United (Eng)	0

Trap to dump Italian job

Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni said he would step down as national team boss after next year's World Cup in South Korea and Japan.

Trapattoni, speaking to Panorama magazine, said he would hand over the reins after the World Cup although Italy need a draw in their last Group 8 match with Hungary to be certain of qualifying.

"I think I will train the national team until the World Cup in Japan — and then enough," said Trapattoni.

Trapattoni, who has had great coaching success with Inter Milan, AC Milan, Juventus and Bayern Munich among other clubs, said his favourite moment with the national team had been as a player in 1960 when Italy beat Brazil 3-0 and 'Trap' marked Pele out of the game.

"But Pele had an injured knee that day and only played because of a contractual obligation," said Trapattoni.

Trapattoni, 65, was appointed in July, 2000 when his predecessor Dino Zoff stepped down after Italy narrowly lost the Euro 2000 Final to France in Rotterdam.

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until October 17)

1	France	810	70	Liberia	512	139	Sierra Leone	290
2	Brazil	799	71	Congo DR	511	140	Rwanda	283
3	Argentina	794	72	Iraq	509	141=	Myanmar	268
4	Italy	737	73	Algeria	508	141=	Surinam	268
5	Portugal	732	74	Burkina Faso	506	143	Tajikistan	266
6	Spain	730	75=	Cuba	505	144	Andorra	263
7	Colombia	719	75=	B-Herzegovina	505	145	Luxemburg	256
8	Netherlands	717	75=	Kuwait	505	146=	Ethiopia	253
9	England	712	78	Bolivia	501	146=	Palestine	253
10	Mexico	711	79	Cyprus	499	148	Bangladesh	252
11	Paraguay	710	80	Mac. FYR	494	149	Maldives	248
12	Germany	708	81	Estonia	491	150	Liechtenstein	246
13	Yugoslavia	705	82	Belarus	487	151	Sri Lanka	244
14	Czech Rep.	704	83	Qatar	484	152	Botswana	230
15	Romania	695	84	Canada	483	153	Antigua & Barbuda	229
16	Croatia	674	85	Haiti	482			
17	Sweden	673	86	El Salvador	478	154	Tanzania	225
18	Denmark	664	87	New Zealand	477	155	Nepal	220
19	United States	660	88	Albania	472	156	Benin	216
20	Honduras	656	89	Indonesia	471	157	Gambia	215
21=	Uruguay	653	90	Congo	459	158	San Marino	214
21=	Ireland Rep.	653	91=	Oman	456	159	Dominica	212
23	Norway	650	91=	Lithuania	456	160=	Dominican Re.	205
24	Russia	648	93	Syria	454	160=	Cayman Is.	205
25	Tunisia	645	94	Latvia	449	162	Bermuda	204
26	Belgium	643	95=	Lebanon	448	163	Cape Verde Is.	203
27	Poland	634	95=	Armenia	448	164	British Virgin Is.	202
28	Japan	633	97=	Nthn Ireland	446	165	Kyrgyzstan	198
29	Costa Rica	630	97=	Namibia	446	166	Laos	194
30	South Africa	628	99	Gabon	443	167	Belize	187
31	Slovenia	622	100=	Moldova	440	168	Vanuatu	182
32	Morocco	621	100=	Jordan	440	169	Eritrea	181
33	Ukraine	617	102=	Vietnam SR	438	170	Chinese Taipei	180
34	Turkey	616	102=	Guinea	438	171	Cambodia	179
35=	Saudi Arabia	615	104	Venezuela	435	172	Mauritania	161
35=	Trinidad & Tobago	615	105	Wales	428	173	Chad	159
			106	Kenya	423	174	Samoa	158
37	Chile	612	107	Kazakhstan	421	175	Tonga	151
38	Iran	610	108	Barbados	415	176	Cook Islands	149
39	Cameroon	608	109	Singapore	406	177=	Guyana	143
40=	Nigeria	604	110	Malaysia	405	177=	Philippines	143
40=	Egypt	604	111	Panama	394	179	N'lands Antilles	118
42	Slovakia	598	112	Bahrain	390	180	C. African Rep.	117
43	Korea Republic	597	113	Azerbaijan	389	181	Macao	114
44	Peru	594	114	Mali	383	182=	Bahamas	108
45	Cote d' Ivoire	593	115	Turkmenistan	382	182=	Guinea-Bissau	108
46	Ecuador	591	116	Libya	381	184	Pakistan	107
47	Israel	590	117	Uganda	379	185	Sao Tome e Principe	106
48=	Bulgaria	586	118	Faroe Islands	373			
48=	Scotland	586	119	Sudan	369	186	Aruba	101
50	Austria	585	120	India	367	187	Mongolia	94
51	**AUSTRALIA**	578	121	Malawi	364	188	Nicaragua	89
52=	Finland	576	122	Madagascar	361	189	Niger	87
52=	Iceland	576	123	Fiji	349	190	B. Darussalam	86
54	Jamaica	567	124	Mozambique	347	191	Equatorial Guinea	83
55=	Angola	563	125	Mauritius	344	192	Seychelles	75
55=	Switzerland	563	126	Tahiti	336	193	Djibouti	73
57	Ghana	552	127=	Lesotho	333	194	Anguilla	65
58	Zambia	551	127=	St Vincent/Gr	333	195	PNG	58
59=	Georgia	548	129	St Kitts & Nevis	329	196	Puerto Rico	55
59=	China PR	548				197	Somalia	53
59=	Greece	548	130	St Lucia	327	198	US Virgin Is.	48
59=	Guatemala	548	131	Swaziland	323	199	Guam	27
63	Thailand	543	132	Malta	319	200	Turks and Caicos Islands	21
64	Hungary	540	133	Grenada	311			
65	Uzbekistan	537	134	Solomon Is.	309	201	American Samoa	16
66	UAE	532	135	Hong Kong	308	202	Bhutan	14
67	Zimbabwe	529	136	Burundi	301	203	Montserrat	10
68	Togo	526	137	Yemen	295			
69	Senegal	525	138	Korea DPR	294			

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GIUOCO CALCIO

ITALY

LEGA CALCIO

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

So the Serie A has suffered its first coaching casualty of the new season and not by any means will it be its last. Dino Zoff, the legendary former goalkeeper and captain of Italy's victorious 1982 World Cup team in Spain, is no longer coach of Lazio.

It was Zoff's second stint at Lazio and it lasted approximately a year because he took over from Sven Goran Eriksson last year when the Swedish maestro took over the reigns of England.

Zoff in his day was an outstanding goalkeeper and his playing career culminated when, at 40 years of age, he held aloft the World Cup for Italy on a hot summer's night in Madrid.

He retired a year later after spending the last decade of his playing career at Juventus.

It was at Juve that he started his coaching career at club level in late 80's. The best he could do there was a UEFA Cup in 1990 and in his three years he failed to deliver a Serie A title.

He then moved on to Lazio where basically he has been ever since. He started out as coach of Lazio and then moved into the role of President when the club realised that his coaching skills were not up to scratch.

After the 1998 World Cup in France he took over the reigns of the Italian national team. He lasted until just after Euro 2000 when Italy was defeated in a heartbreaking final against France.

It was Zoff's second stint in charge of a national team - he was coach of Italy's Olympic team that at the 1988 Seoul Olympics lost 0-4 to Zambia!

He was a surprise choice even as senior national coach in 1998 and it was his selecting ability, rather than his coaching ability, which landed him the job. The national team needs a mentor more than a coach. And, then it was back to Lazio.

Last year he managed to guide Lazio to third place after an ordinary start to the year under Eriksson whose mind was definitely elsewhere.

However, after failing to win a game in their first three Serie A matches and two Champions League losses (the latest last week at home to Nantes), the club finally decided that enough was enough.

Rumours were rife for a few weeks, after losing 1-0 to Galatasaray in Istanbul, and Zoff's days were numbered.

Zoff's is originally from the tiny north-eastern Italian City of Udine where he is still a local hero.

While Zoff can't coach in the Serie A again this year under Italian football rules, he would make an ideal choice perhaps next year for Udinese.

Zoff's replacement is a man who guided Udinese through a few very successful years in the mid 90's - Alberto Zaccheroni.

Zaccheroni was so successful at Udinese - they regularly finished in the top six teams - he landed the prime job at AC Milan in 1998.

In his first season in Milan, 98/99, he guided the club to a most-unexpected Serie A Scudetto.

Zaccheroni is a great coach and he proved it at both Udinese and AC Milan.

His three years in Milan were successful but it was a personality clash with club owner and now Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, which eventually saw him depart the fashion capital.

The irony is that Zoff, after receiving stinging criticism from Mr Berlusconi after Euro 2000, quit as national coach.

The same person who accounted for Zaccheroni's demise at AC Milan.

And, the last bit of irony comes from Zaccheroni himself.

He made his debut on the Lazio bench last weekend and his opponents were his former club AC Milan!

All in all it has been a strange twist of fate but nevertheless it is great to see Zaccheroni back.

He was too good to be 'unemployed' and Lazio's choice should prove to be very worthwhile.

●●●●●●

Meanwhile, Zoff's former club coach at Juventus in the late 70's and early 80's Giovanni Trapattoni, the current Italian national team boss, has said that he will quit after the 2002 World Cup in Korea/Japan.

Trapattoni twice replaced Zoff as coach; firstly, at Juventus in the early 90's when he returned there for his second stint and secondly, as Italy's coach after Euro 2000.

Trapattoni is 65 years young and has achieved everything at club level as a coach and player.

However, there is still one thing that has eluded him and it would be a fitting finale for a truly great career, a World Cup victory.

LAZIO STILL WINLESS

PERUGIA 1
UDINESE 2

A 67th minute free kick by Chilean international David Pizarro gave Udinese their first league win of the season.

Perugia took the lead through a 20th minute header by Greek forward Zisis Vryzas but Udinese's Martin Jorgensen equalised with a deflected shot just before halftime.

AS ROMA 2
FIORENTINA 1

A diving header three minutes from time by newly acquired defender Christian Panucci enabled AS Roma to grab their first league win of the season.

Daniele Adani headed the visitors ahead but Francesco Totti equalised from the penalty spot for the defending Serie A champions.

Roma have five points from four matches. Fiorentina have dropped three of four matches played.

TORINO 0
INTER MILAN 1

A 68th minute penalty converted by Mohammed Kallon gave Inter Milan their third win of the season.

The spot kick was awarded after Torino defender Fabio Galante brought down Nicola Ventola.

Kallon has scored four goals in four league matches played.

VENEZIA 0
BOLOGNA 1

A goal three minutes into injury time from newly acquired midfielder Lamberto Zauli gave Bologna their third win of the season.

Bologna climb into second place on nine points level with Chievo Verona.

LECCE 0
JUVENTUS 0

League leaders Juventus dropped their first points of the season away to Lecce as both clubs had to settle for a hard fought draw.

Both sides squandered opportunities throughout the match.

CHIEVO 4
PIACENZA 2

Piacenza took an early lead after eight minutes through Dario Hubner.

Corini levelled from the penalty spot five minutes later but Christian Mandfredini blasted home in the 37th minute for his first Serie A goal to give Chievo the lead.

Simone Perrotta added a third goal for Chievo two minutes after the break before Corini struck again with a well taken free kick.

Hubner netted his second late on.

Roma's Gabriel Batistuta (right) challenges for a ball with Fiorentina's Daniele Adani during their game at Rome's Olympic stadium.

AC MILAN 2
LAZIO 0

Fillipo Inzaghi scored in the 42nd minute and Martin Laursen added a goal six minutes after the break giving AC Milan a 2-0 victory over Lazio and new manager Alberto Zaccheroni.

Lazio suffered several injuries to key players including Hernan Crespo, Alessandro Nesta and Dino Baggio, and were forced to play in ten men for the last 30 minutes of the match having already used all their substitutes.

AC Milan's Ron Laursen celebrates his goal against Lazio at the San Siro.

PARMA 1
BRESCIA 0

An 87th minute strike by Japanese international Hidetoshi Nakata gave Parma their first win of the season.

Brescia defender Daniele Bonera was sent off two minutes from time for a bookable offence, his second of the match.

ATALANTA 1
VERONA 0

A superb free kick by Crisitiano Doni in the 27th minute gave Atalanta their first win of the season.

This was only the second goal scored by Atalanta in four league matches played.

Verona suffered their first defeat of the campaign.

THIS WEEK

Sunday September 30:

Brescia v Atalanta
Fiorentina v Venezia
Inter Milan v Bologna
Juventus v AS Roma
Lazio v Parma
Perugia v AC Milan
Piacenza v Torino
Udinese v Chievo
Verona v Lecce

TABLE AFTER WEEK FOUR

Atalanta 1 Verona 0, Chievo 4 Piacenza 2, Lecce 0 Juventus 0, AC Milan 2 Lazio 0, Parma 1 Brescia 0, Perugia 1 Udinese 2, AS Roma 2 Fiorentina 1, Torino 0 Inter Milan 1, Venezia 0 Bologna 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**9**	**2**	**10**
AC Milan	4	3	1	0	11	5	10
Inter Milan	4	3	1	0	9	4	10
Chievo	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Bologna	4	3	0	1	3	2	9
Lecce	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Brescia	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Udinese	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Parma	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Verona	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
AS Roma	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Piacenza	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Lazio	4	0	3	1	1	3	3
Fiorentina	4	1	0	3	6	10	3
Atalanta	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Torino	4	0	2	2	3	6	2
Perugia	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
Venezia	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

Kewell double keep Leeds atop and unbeaten

LEEDS UNITED 3
DERBY COUNTY 0

Leeds returned to the top of the league with a result that was harder to achieve than the scoreline suggests.

Erik Bakke headed Leeds into a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute but they struggled for long periods until Harry Kewell struck twice in four minutes' - 74 and 78 - to settle it.

ARSENAL 1
BOLTON 1

Arsenal made all the early running and once Ricardo Gardner was sent off for pulling down Dennis Bergkamp after half an hour Bolton's chances of remaining top of the league looked doomed.

But the 10 men defended manfully as Arsenal poured on the pressure in the second half, the hosts eventually breaking through with a first goal for Francis Jeffers after 74 minutes.

But Bolton hit back on the break and equalised though Michael Ricketts to stay top.

BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
EVERTON 0

American goalkeeper Brad Friedel was Blackburn's hero as he produced a series of good saves to deny Everton, for whom Paul Gascoigne, making his first start since November, pulled all the strings.

The only goal came in the 37th minute when Corrado Grabbi finished off a great move for his first goal in the Premiership.

LEICESTER CITY 0
FULHAM 0

Fulham were on top in the first half but, as so often already this season, they could not turn their neat passing into goals.

Leicester improved after the break with Jamie Scowcroft and Dean Sturridge going close but both managers will probably have settled for a point.

LIVERPOOL 1
TOTTENHAM 0

Jari Litmanen earned Liverpool a deserved three points with a fierce 25 metre shot that went in off a post after 57 minutes.

But there was also bad news for Gerard Houllier - and England - as Michael Owen strained a hamstring after coming on as a substitute.

MANCHESTER UNITED 4
IPSWICH TOWN 0

A Ronny Johnsen header put United ahead after 13 minutes and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was on hand to tap in the second soon after.

United eased through the second half before Andy Cole in the 89th and Solskjaer again in injury time added gloss to the scoreline.

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29
Aston Villa vs Blackburn
Tottenham vs Man. Utd
Bolton vs Sunderland
Charlton vs Leicester
Derby vs Arsenal
Everton vs West Ham
Fulham vs Chelsea
Ipswich vs Leeds
M'brough vs S'thampton

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30
Newcastle vs Liverpool
Ipswich vs Leeds

Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann (right) battles against Tottenham Hotspur's Steffan Freund during the game between Liverpool and Tottenham at Anfield.

SUNDERLAND 2
CHARLTON 2

Two goals in three minutes for Niall Quinn saved Sunderland after Charlton had led 2-0.

An error by reserve keeper Juergen Macho led to Shaun Bartlett's defelected goal after 11 minutes and Steve Brown was left unmarked to head in a long throw after an hour.

But Sunderland fought back well, Quinn earning a deserved point with headers in the 74th and 77th minutes.

CHELSEA 2
MIDDLESBOROUGH 2

An injury time penalty by Alen Boksic after a handball by Graeme Le Saux earned Middlesbrough a point.

Two well-taken first half goals by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink had put Chelsea in control but once Robbie Stockdale pulled one back after an hour the visitors made most of the running.

A 90th minute penalty by Boksic enabled Middlesborough to grab a point from the game.

WEST HAM 3
NEWCASTLE 0

Newcastle's run of games without a win in London stretched to 26 as West Ham deservedly chalked up their first win of the season and climbed off the bottom of the table.

Don Hutchison's determined header after 18 minutes got them going and a good individual run and shot by Paolo Di Canio in the 53rd and a cool finish by Frederic Kanoute in the 82nd were just reward for an impressive overall performance.

Louis Saha (left) of Fulham beats Frank Sinclair of Leicester during their Premiership game at Filbert Street.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea 2 Middlesbrough 2, Leeds United 3 Derby County 0, West Ham 3 Newcastle United 0, Arsenal 1 Bolton Wanderers 1, Blackburn Rovers 1 Everton 0, Leicester City 0 Fulham 0, Liverpool 1 Tottenham Hotspur 0, Manchester Utd 4 Ipswich Town 0, Sunderland 2 Charlton Athletic 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	6	4	2	0	9	1	14
Bolton	7	3	3	1	10	4	12
Arsenal	6	3	2	1	14	5	11
Man. United	6	3	2	1	17	10	11
Chelsea	5	2	3	0	9	6	9
Liverpool	5	3	0	2	8	7	9
Blackburn Rovers	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Sunderland	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
Newcastle Utd	5	2	2	1	10	9	8
Tottenham	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
Everton	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
Middlesbrough	7	2	1	4	7	14	7
Aston Villa	4	1	3	0	4	2	6
Fulham	6	1	3	2	6	7	6
West Ham	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Charlton Athletic	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Ipswich Town	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Derby County	6	1	2	3	5	10	5
Leicester City	6	1	2	3	5	14	5
Southampton	4	1	0	3	1	6	3

FIRST DIVISION

Birmingham 0 Preston 1, Coventry 2 Portsmouth 0, Crewe 1 Watford 0, Crystal Palace 1 Barnsley 0, Gillingham 2 Rotherham 1, Millwall 2 Sheffield United 0, Norwich 2 Burnley 1, Sheffield Wednesday 2 Manchester City 6, Stockport 3 Grimsby 3, West Bromwich 0 Wimbledon 1, Walsall 0 Wolverhampton 3, Nottingham Forest 1 Bradford 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	9	7	0	2	24	14	21
Norwich	8	6	1	1	12	7	19
Wolverhampton	8	5	3	0	16	9	18
Manchester City	8	5	0	3	24	16	15
Portsmouth	9	4	3	2	16	13	15
Grimsby	9	4	3	2	11	14	15
Bradford	8	4	2	2	17	9	14
W.B.A.	8	4	1	3	11	6	13
Coventry	8	4	1	3	10	7	13
Crystal Palace	7	4	0	3	18	14	12
Nott. Forest	8	3	3	2	9	6	12
Wimbledon	9	3	3	3	15	13	12
Millwall	8	4	0	4	12	10	12
Birmingham	8	4	0	4	13	12	12
Gillingham	8	3	1	4	14	12	10
Watford	8	3	0	5	10	13	9
Preston	8	2	3	3	7	13	9
Crewe	8	3	0	5	6	15	9
Sheffield United	8	1	5	2	8	10	8
Barnsley	9	2	2	5	8	16	8
Shef. Wednesday	8	1	3	4	7	15	6
Walsall	8	1	2	5	8	16	5
Stockport	8	0	3	5	10	18	3
Rotherham	8	0	3	5	8	16	3

SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 1 Cambridge United 1, Brentford 2 Oldham 2, Brighton 2 Bournemouth 1, Bury 0 Stoke 1, Cardiff 1 Huddersfield 2, Chesterfield 4 Swindon 0, Colchester 0 Notts County 1, Peterborough 4 Bristol City 1, Port Vale 0 Northampton 1, Reading 2 Wycombe 0, Wigan 1 QPR 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	9	6	2	1	13	6	20
Brentford	8	4	4	0	14	6	16
Oldham	9	4	4	1	19	13	16
Colchester	9	5	1	3	17	12	16
Reading	8	5	1	2	9	4	16
Huddersfield	9	5	1	3	12	10	16
Bristol City	8	4	3	1	15	10	15
Q.P.R.	9	4	3	2	12	8	15
Peterborough	9	4	2	3	15	10	14
Stoke	8	4	1	3	9	5	13
Tranmere	9	3	3	3	17	15	12
Chesterfield	9	3	3	3	14	12	12
Notts County	8	3	3	2	12	12	12
Swindon	9	3	3	3	9	11	12
Cardiff	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Wycombe	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
Blackpool	8	2	3	3	11	15	9
Wigan	7	2	1	4	7	8	7
Port Vale	9	2	1	6	10	17	7
Cambridge	9	1	3	5	7	12	6
Bournemouth	8	1	3	4	8	16	6
Wrexham	8	1	3	4	12	21	6
Northampton	9	2	0	7	6	18	6
Bury	8	1	0	7	5	15	3

WORLD

Madrid win at last

Spanish Primera Liga

Spanish champions Real Madrid finally found some domestic form over the weekend as they moved out of relegation with a fluent 5-1 win at home to Espanyol.

Real had managed just a point from their first three league games but goals from Zinedine Zidane, Roberto Carlos and Luis Figo put them 3-0 up inside the first 20 minutes against a poor Espanyol side.

Quique de Lucas pulled one back at the start of the second half, but Real continued in the same form that had brought them Champions League wins over AS Roma and Lokomotiv Moscow as Raul and Steve McManaman wrapped up the victory.

Deportivo Coruna, champions in 2000, moved briefly to the top of the table with nine points from four games thanks to a 3-2 victory at Alaves.

Villarreal took second spot, behind Deportivo on goal difference, as a Martin Palermo strike five minutes from time earned them a 1-0 win at home to Real Sociedad.

Barcelona briefly climbed to third, a point further back, with a 2-0 victory over Tenerife at the Nou Camp.

Real remain five points off the pace but coach Vicente del Bosque will be a lot happier after seeing record $66 million signing Zidane contribute fully to a convincing win.

Zidane set Real on their way with a neat strike on six minutes after Raul had done well to touch the ball back to him on the edge of the area.

Roberto Carlos smacked in a free kick and Luis Figo scored from the penalty spot after being pushed over in the area to send Real racing clear before the mid-point in the first half.

De Lucas converted from a Martin Posse back-heel at the start of the second half as Real suffered a brief lapse in concentration, but a home victory was never in danger.

Raul got the fourth after playing a one-two with the lively Pedro Munitis and McManaman tapped in the fifth from a Michel Salgado cross.

"There were moments of exquisite football," said Del Bosque. "The team gave the crowd something to enjoy and we played with solidity and created chances."

Barcelona also improved on their recent form by beating Tenerife.

Brazilian midfielder Geovanni got the opener just past the half-hour mark after a great pass from Xavi and Argentine youngster Javier Saviola scored with a fine solo effort in injury-time to give Barca eight points from four games.

Celta Vigo however overtook Deportivo on Sunday, after beating Mallorca 2-0 while Valencia dropped to sixth after only managing a draw against Athletic Bilbao.

Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane (centre) is congratulated by Raul Gonzalez (left) and Luis Figo after scoring a goal against Espanol.

Deportivo La Coruna's Emilio Amavisca who scored twice, against Alaves.

Bilbao 2 Valencia 2, Zaragoza 0 Osasuna 1, Sevilla 2 Rayo Vallecano 1 Valladolid 0 Betis 2, Celta 2 Mallorca 0, Las Palmas 0 Malaga 0, Alaves 2 Deportivo 3, Barcelona 2 Tenerife 0, Real Madrid 5 Espanyol 1, Villarreal 1 Real Sociedad 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Celta	4	3	1	0	8	0	10
2 Deportivo	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
3 Betis	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
4 Villarreal	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
5 Barcelona	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
6 Valencia	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
7 Alaves	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
8 Bilbao	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
9 Sevilia	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
10 Malaga	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
11 Real	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
12 Las Palmas	4	1	1	2	3	2	4
13 Zaragoza	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
14 Mallorca	4	1	1	2	1	5	4
15 Valladolid	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
16 Osasuna	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
17 Tenerife	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
18 Espanyol	4	1	0	3	5	11	3
19 Rayo Vallecano	4	0	1	3	4	7	1
20 Real Sociedad	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

(w/e Sunday, September 30)

Real Madrid v Valladolid,	Mallorca v Villareal
Real Betis v Las Palmas	Real Sociedad v Barcelona,
Malaga v Atletico Bilbao,	Tenerife v Zaragoza
Valencia v Alaves	Osasuna v Sevilla,
La Coruna v Celta Vigo,	Espanyol v Rayo Vallecano

WORLD RESULTS

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

Van Der Arjan (left) of Twente Enschede escapes from an opponent during a league game last weekend.

Ajax Amsterdam 3 Sparta Rotterdam 0, Graafschap 0 Vitesse Arnhem 2 AZ Alkmaar 1 Utrecht 0, NAC Breda 0 Willem II Tilburg 1 NEC Nijmegen 1 Gronigen 0, Heerenveen 4 PSV Eindhoven 1 RKC Waalwijk 1 Fortuna Sittard 0, Roda JC Kerkrade 4 Den Bosch 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. A. Amsterdam	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
2. Feyenoord	5	4	0	1	13	2	12
3. Vitesse Arnhem	6	3	3	0	6	2	12
4. Willem II	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
5. Waalwijk	6	3	1	2	7	3	10
6. AZ Alkmaar	6	3	0	3	6	6	9
7. Heerenveen	5	2	2	1	11	4	8
8. Den Bosch	6	2	2	2	10	9	8
9. T. Enschede	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
10. NAC Breda	5	2	1	2	7	10	7
11. Graafschap	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
12. PSV Eindhoven	6	2	1	3	10	13	7
13. Groningen	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
14. NEC Nijmegen	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
15. Utrecht	6	2	0	4	8	8	6
16. S. Rotterdam	6	1	2	3	4	13	5
17. Roda JC	6	1	1	4	6	12	4
18. Fortuna Sittard	6	1	1	4	3	11	4

BELGIUM EERSTE KLASSE

Beveren 0 Lommel 2, Antwerp 2 Ghent 3, La Louviere 1 Eendracht Aalst 3, Genk 4 Lierse 2, Sint-Truiden 2 Germinal Beerschot 2 Mouscron 4 Molenbeek 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Ghent	6	6	0	0	15	6	18
2. Aalst	6	5	1	0	11	2	16
3. Club Bruges	5	5	0	0	15	5	15
4. Standard Liege	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
5. Genk	6	3	2	1	18	11	11
6.. Sint-Truiden	6	3	2	1	14	11	11
7. Charleroi	5	3	1	1	6	5	10
8. Lommel	6	3	0	3	12	16	9
9. Lierse	6	2	3	1	8	7	9
10. Anderlecht	5	2	2	1	10	7	8
11. G. B'schot	6	1	4	1	14	11	7
12. Lokeren	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
13. Antwerp	6	1	1	4	7	10	4
14. Westerlo	5	1	0	4	11	13	3
15. Mouscron	6	1	0	5	7	9	3
16. Molenbeek	5	0	1	4	4	8	1
17. La Louviere	6	0	1	5	6	21	1
18. Beveren	6	0	1	5	4	20	1

Standard Liege's Didier Ernst attempts to shoot over the weekend in a league game at Liege.

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

AEK Athens' Carlos Gamarra (left) challenges an opponent from Ionikos during the opening week of the Greek season.

Panionios 2 Panathinaikos 2, Akratitos 2 Xanthi 0, Panahaiki 5 Aigaleo 3, OFI Crete 2 Ethnikos 0, Ionikos 1 AEK 2, PAOK Salonika 1 Aris Salonika 1, Olympiakos 3 Iraklis 0

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Oly. Piraeus	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
OFI Crete	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Akratitos Athens	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
AEK Athens	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Panahaiki Patras	1	1	0	0	5	3	3
Pan. Athens	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Panionios Athens	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Aris Salonica	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
PAOK Salonica	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ionikos Piraeus	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Aigaleo Athens	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Xanthi	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Ethnikos	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Iraklis Salonica	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

WORLD

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

RUTHLESS RANGERS

Celtic and Rangers both won in impressive style last Saturday as the Scottish Premier League showed every sign of turning into another two-horse race.

Celtic took 65 minutes to break down Aberdeen's resistance at Parkhead before Henrik Larsson opened the scoring by heading home for his seventh goal of the season.

Stilian Petrov added a second in the 81st minute with his third goal in three games as the champions maintained their unbeaten start to the season.

Rangers had an easier time of it against Dundee United, who have now lost their last four matches.

Jamie Buchan turned the ball into his own net after just 90 seconds to give Rangers the lead, and although Jim McIntyre pulled United level after 34 minutes, Rangers totally dominated the second half.

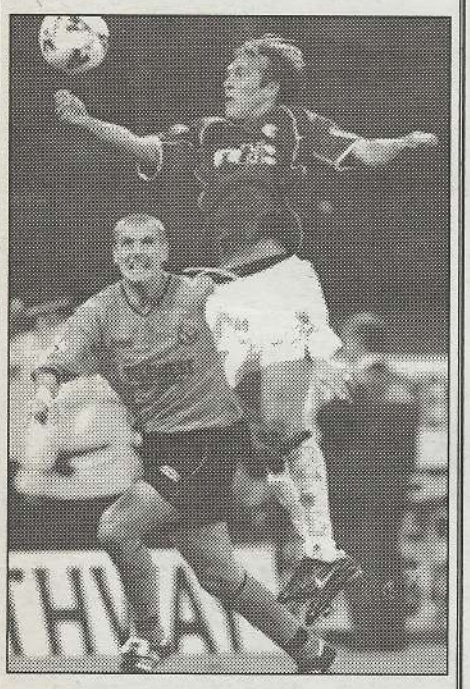
Tore Andre Flo (50th minute) restored Rangers' lead, tapping in from six metres after a Ronald de Boer shot had hit the post, before De Boer (65th minute) and Flo, with goals in the 74th and 80th minutes, destroyed the home side's resistance.

Neil McCann put the finishing touch to the victory with the sixth goal seconds from the end.

In the other matches played over the weekend, Livingston maintained their impressive start to their first season in the top division and moved up to third with a 2-1 comeback win at Dunfermline, who have now lost their last six matches.

Stevie Crawford had headed Dunfermline ahead in the first half, but goals from David Bingham (74th minute) and Barry Wilson (82nd minute) earned Livingston the points.

Motherwell, who sacked coach Billy Davies on Thursday, won for the first time this season with a 2-0 home win over Hearts that means they leapfrog above St Johnstone who slip to bottom.



Rangers' Fernando Ricksen (right) in action against Derek Lilley of Dundee United.

Hibernian 4 St Johnstone 0, Kilmarnock 0 Dundee 1, Celtic 2 Aberdeen 0, Dundee Utd 1 Rangers 6, Dunfermline Athletic 1 Livingston 2, Motherwell 2 Hearts 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	**8**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**19**	**2**	**22**
Rangers	8	5	3	0	22	6	18
Hibernian	8	4	2	2	20	12	14
Livingston	8	3	4	1	8	5	13
Kilmarnock	8	3	2	3	9	9	11
Dundee	8	3	2	3	8	13	11
Hearts	8	3	1	4	8	10	10
Aberdeen	8	3	1	4	9	12	10
Dundee Utd	8	2	2	4	8	16	8
Dunfermline	8	2	0	6	13	20	6
Motherwell	8	1	3	4	9	17	6
St Johnstone	8	0	3	5	5	16	3

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

CHAMPIONS NANTES LOSE AGAIN

RC Lens slumped to their first defeat in the French first division this season while Olympique Marseille snatched their first win beating champions Nantes 2-0.

Lens slipped to third after concededing three goals to an inspired Monaco side.Lens had the better start but were caught out in the 33rd minute when a long-range Alex Nyarko shot was deflected into the net by Jean-Guy Wallemme.

Monaco began to dominate and scored twice early in the second half through Ludovic Giuly in the 47th minute and Congo's Shabani Nonda four minutes later.

Ivory Coast's Ibrahima Bakayoko ended

Paris Saint-Germain's Jose Aloisio (left) and a Montpellier player contest for the ball over the weekend.

Marseille's winless run with two goals in the last five minutes. Nantes remain the only team to have not won, an amazing feat for last year's champions.

Lille scored an important 2-1 victory over Bastia to leave them in second.

Bastia opened the scoring a minute later through Fabrice Jau on a counter-attack.

Lille pushed hard and equalised six minutes later through Moroccan defender Abdelilah Fahmi before earning a last-gasp victory thanks to inform Bruno Cheyrou.

Auxerre moved to the top of the first division after a hard-fought 2-2 draw with Guingamp.They took the lead in the 69th minute when Narcisse Olivier Kapo volleyed home a corner.

Guingamp scored almost immediately on the break with a goal from defender Blaise Kouassi.

Fadiga put Auxerre back in front with an 82nd minute penalty, but Algerian Abdelatif Tasfaout levelled again three minutes later.

Lorient 0 Bordeaux 2, Sochaux 3 Sedan 0, Monaco 3 RC Lens 0, AJ Auxerre 2 Guingamp 2, Metz 2 Olympique Lyon 0, Lille 2 Bastia 1, Rennes 0 Troyes 1, Olympique Marseille 2 Nantes 0, Paris St Germain 0 Montpellier 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AJ Auxerre	**8**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**14**	**5**	**18**
Lille	8	5	3	0	10	4	18
RC Lens	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Lyon	8	5	1	2	13	6	16
Sochaux	8	4	2	2	12	9	14
Paris St Germain	8	2	6	0	10	6	12
Bordeaux	8	2	4	2	9	8	10
Bastia	8	3	1	4	7	8	10
Troyes	8	3	1	4	6	7	10
Monaco	8	2	3	3	7	8	9
Lorient	8	2	3	3	8	10	9
Metz	8	3	0	5	6	9	9
Montpellier	8	1	5	2	5	4	8
Rennes	8	2	2	4	8	14	8
Guingamp	8	2	2	4	5	12	8
Marseille	8	1	4	3	4	6	7
Sedan	8	1	4	3	7	11	7
Nantes	8	0	2	6	4	14	2

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Levan Kobiashivili of Freiburg (right) tussles with Gerald Asamoah of Schalke during their Bundesliga match.

UNSTOPPABLE KAISERS

Kaiserslautern over the weekend equalled a German league record for successive wins from the start of a season when they hammered Hertha Berlin 4-1 to emulate Bayern Munich's 1995 performance.

Lautern made it seven out of seven with Miroslav Klose, Vratislav Lokvenc, Hany Ramzy and Brazilian forward Lincoln all on target and Hertha's Brazilian Marcelinho netting a consolation spotkick.

Mario Basler should have added a fifth but blasted a second half penalty over the crossbar - but that didn't take the gloss off for coach Andreas Brehme.

Brehme's runaway leaders now have a five-point cushion over reigning champions Bayern Munich, who waltzed their way to a 3-0 victory at Energie Cottbus with Alex Zickler and Claudio Pizarro of Peru both scoring inside the opening four minutes.

A Janos Matyus own goal sealed the win for Bayern after 73 minutes.

Borussia Dortmund, held by Liverpool in midweek, were held again in their Ruhr derby with Champions League fellow travellers Bayer Leverkusen.

Brazilian sharpshooter Amoroso put Dortmund ahead on seven minutes but Bulgarian Dimitar Berbatov levelled with 11 minutes left.

Schalke slid out of the top five following their 2-0 defeat at Freiburg, while Hamburg are in the bottom four after slumping 4-0 at home to Werder Bremen.

1860 Munich 2 VfL Wolfsburg 1, Borussia Moen'bach 2 FC St Pauli 2, VfB Stuttgart 2 Hansa Rostock 1, Energie Cottbus 0 Bayern Munich 3, SC Freiburg 2 Schalke 04 0, Borussia Dortmund 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Hamburg SV 0 Werder Bremen 4, Cologne 1 Nuremberg 2, Kaiserslautern 4 Hertha Berlin 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	**7**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**20**	**7**	**21**
Bayern Munich	7	5	1	1	12	2	16
Bayer Leverkusen	7	4	3	0	14	7	15
Bor. Dortmund	7	4	1	2	11	4	13
VfB Stuttgart	7	3	3	1	8	5	12
Schalke 04	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Energie Cottbus	7	3	2	2	10	11	11
1860 Munich	7	3	1	3	8	11	10
Borussia M'bach	7	2	3	2	10	9	9
SC Freiburg	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
Werder Bremen	7	2	2	3	10	11	8
Cologne	7	2	2	3	7	8	8
Hertha Berlin	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Nuremberg	7	2	0	5	6	11	6
Hamburg SV	7	1	2	4	9	14	5
Hansa Rostock	7	1	2	4	4	11	5
St Pauli	7	0	3	4	4	11	3
VfL Wolfsburg	7	0	3	4	1	15	3

WORLD LEAGUES

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Beira Mar 1 Salgueiros 1, Alverca 4 Varzim 2, Uniao Leiria 2 Maritimo 0, Farense Guimaraes 1 Sporting 3, Vitoria 1 Pacos Ferreira 1, Belenenses 1 Benfica 1, Porto 3 Vitoria Setubal 0, Gil Vicente 0 Boavista 3, Braga 6 Santa Clara 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	**6**	**5**	**0**	**1**	**12**	**5**	**15**
Porto	6	4	1	1	13	3	13
Benfica	6	2	4	0	11	8	10
Sporting	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Vitoria Guimaraes	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Vitoria Setubal	6	3	0	3	12	10	9
Maritimo	6	3	0	3	10	8	9
Uniao Leiria	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
Alverca	6	3	0	3	8	11	9
Gil Vicente	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
Santa Clara	6	2	2	2	6	10	8
Braga	6	2	1	3	12	5	7
Belenenses	6	2	1	3	10	8	7
Farense	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
Pacos Ferreira	6	1	3	2	7	7	6
Beira Mar	6	1	3	2	8	12	6
Salgueiros	6	1	1	4	3	11	4
Varzim	6	0	2	4	6	17	2

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Zagreb 8 TSK 0, Hajduk 1 Cibalia 0, Rijeka 1 Zadar 1,Varteks 3 Marsonia 0, Hrv.Dragovoljac 5 Pomorac 1, Slaven Belupo 1 Sibenik 0, Osijek 1 Cakovec 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	**8**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**25**	**6**	**22**
Varteks	8	6	1	1	20	9	19
Dinamo	7	6	1	0	14	4	19
Hajduk	7	5	0	2	17	9	15
Rijeka	8	4	1	3	11	10	13
Slaven Belupo	8	4	1	3	9	10	13
Hrv. Dragovoljac	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Cakovec	8	3	2	3	9	11	11
Zadar	8	2	4	2	11	11	10
Pomorac	8	2	2	4	7	11	8
Kamen Ingrad	7	1	4	2	7	9	7
Cibalia	8	2	1	5	7	11	7
Osijek	7	2	0	5	6	14	6
Sibenik	8	1	2	5	3	10	5
Marsonia	8	1	1	6	7	13	4
TSK	8	1	1	6	12	26	4

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Obilic Belgrade 3 Zeleznik Belgrade 1, OFK Belgrade 1 Red Star Belgrade 1, Partisan Belgrade 3 Zemun 1, Radnicki Kragujevac 1 Rudar Pljevlja 0, Mladost Lucani 3 Hajduk Kula 2, Sartid Smederevo 2 Mladost Apatin 1, Vojvodina Novi Sad 0 Rad Belgrade 0, Sutjeska Niksic 1 Zeta Golubovci 0, Zvezdara Belgrade 1 Cukaricki Belgrade 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan Belgrade	**5**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**13**	**6**	**13**
Sartid Smederevo	5	4	1	0	8	3	13
OFK Belgrade	5	2	3	0	4	2	9
Rad Belgrade	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
Obilic Belgrade	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Zvezdara Belgrade	5	2	1	2	7	4	7
Mladost Lucani	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Sutjeska Niksic	5	2	1	2	3	5	7
Rudar Pljevlja	5	2	0	3	5	3	6
Red Star Belgrade	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Radniccki Kragujevac	5	1	3	1	5	7	6
Vojvodina Novi Sad	5	0	5	0	4	4	5
Hajduk Kula	5	1	2	2	7	8	5
Zeta Golubovci	5	1	2	2	4	10	5
Zeleznik Belgrade	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Zemun	5	0	4	1	1	4	4
Cukaricki Belgrade	5	0	2	3	5	9	2
Mladost Apatin	5	0	2	3	4	10	2

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Yozgatspor 0 Genclerbirligi 2, Rizespor 1 Antalyaspor 1, Ankaragucu 3 Besiktas 4, Istanbulspor 2 Trabzonspor 1, Samsunspor 1 Bursaspor 2, Galatasaray 2 Fenerbahce 0, Denizlispor 4 Malatayaspor 1, Kocaelispor 2 Goztepe 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	**6**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**14**	**5**	**16**
Istanbulspor	6	5	1	0	6	1	16
Goztepe	6	4	1	1	8	5	13
Kocaelispor	6	3	3	0	12	6	12
Fenerbahce	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Genclerbirligi	6	2	3	1	15	11	9
Trabzonspor	6	3	0	3	12	9	9
Rizespor	6	2	2	2	9	10	8
Denizlispor	6	2	1	3	10	5	7
Besiktas	5	2	1	2	11	8	7
Yozgatspor	6	2	1	3	8	12	7
Bursaspor	6	2	1	3	6	13	7
Ankaragucu	6	2	0	4	21	16	6
Gaziantepspor	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Antalyaspor	6	1	2	3	8	17	5
Diyarbakirspor	5	1	1	3	9	13	4
Samsunspor	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Malatyaspor	6	0	0	6	1	18	0

Barcelona's Saviola (right) goes past Pablo Paz of Tenerife during the Primera Liga match between Barcelona and Tenerife at the Nou Camp.